



ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
February 2009

- Feb 15th Coolmine Rally
- March 8th Limerick Rally
- March 14th Lagan Valley ARS Rally
- April 3rd Church Island RG Rally
- April 25th IRTS Annual Dinner
- April 26th IRTS AGM & Rally
- June 21st Bangor & District Rally
- June 26/28th Friedrichshafen Hamfest
- April 13th IRTS 2m Counties
- June 6/7th CW Field Day
- June 21st 80m Counties Contest
- July 4/5th VHF/UHF Field Day
- August 30th IRTS 2m Counties
- Sept 5/6th HF SSB Field Day

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News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC, Roland EI4GYB Ger EI4GXB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Aengus EI4ABB
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Gareth EI7FZB, Robbie EI8FZB

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Committee Members 2008/09

Elected

Thos Caffrey, EI2JD
Sean Donelan, EI4GK
Ger McNamara, EI4GXB
Brendan Minish, EI6IZ
Mark Condon, EI6JK
Joe Ryan, EI7GY
John Ronan, EI7IG
Seamus McCague, EI8BP
Ger Gervin, EI8CC
John McCarthy, EI8JA
Pat O'Connor, EI9HX

Co-Opted

Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX
Sean Nolan EI7CD

An Appreciation - Fr. Pádraig O'Kelly, P.E. EI5DA

At 12:15pm on Saturday Dec 27th 2008 a nurse entered Fr. O'Kelly's ward in Limerick Regional Hospital as he sat by his bed. She asked him how he felt. His answer was amazing, "**Heavenly**" he said and that was his last breath and last word on this earth. He died instantly.

All during his 92 years on this earth he was close to God and for almost 70 of those years he was a priest, having been ordained on the 15th July 1939.

Fr Pat loved being a priest and his life was really Christ centered with a tremendous devotion to Holy Mass, the Blessed Eucharist, his Breviary, Our Blessed Lady and the Rosary.

Whether as a teacher, a preacher or a pastor he knew he was doing the Lord's work and he always did it to the very best of his ability.

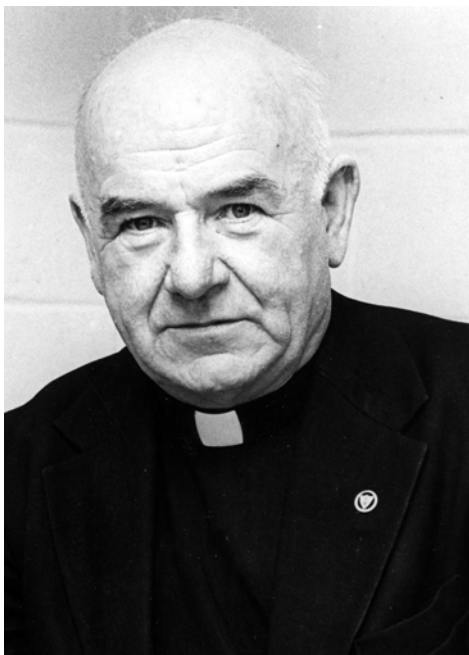
As a student years ago, every aspiring priest was told that his aim in life should be – to be an '**Alter Christus**' (another Christ). Fr. Pat tried to live that all his life.

Fr. Pat was an extraordinary man; he had a razor sharp mind and was an expert in many fields. Any description of him could include the words of the poet Goldsmith,

"And still they gazed and still the wonder grew that one small head could carry all he knew".

He was extraordinary well read and could converse on any subject but most of all he was mechanically minded.

His interests were vast and included building and flying his own aeroplane, being the 'master' of his own yacht, trains and motor cars, building his own telescope for the hobby of astronomy, computers and indeed Ham Radio.



His late brother Eoin was also involved in Ham Radio with the call EI6BX and was the President of IRTS from 1972 to 1975. Fr. Pat's call sign was EI5DA and GI3PKY during his time in Northern Ireland.

He was an active member of the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society and was an integral part of getting the first 2m Repeater on air. This repeater although upgraded is still active today on top of Clermont Cairn just north of Dundalk, it has been active since 1982.

He has also been the President of the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society since the beginning of the new millennium.

Fr. Pat combined his interest in computers with Ham Radio and for many years transmitted the weekly IRTS news bulletin on 2m RTTY on Monday nights from 8:00 to 8:30pm.

Fr. Pat was endowed with another extraordinary gift and that was his memory. Even after years, your name, what, where and when he met you slipped easily off his tongue. He could remember the dates on which he baptised children when he met them again as adults and even the other children that were baptised on the same occasion.

Perhaps his greatest gift was his musical ability. He had a splendid singing voice and was a wizard on the organ and piano. While based in Drogheda during the war years he formed the now famous St. Peter's Male Voice Choir who have recently performed at the United Nations.

From 1945 to 1975 he was musical director at Trench House in Belfast. He was the Parish Priest of Mellifont from 1975 to 1995 where he formed the Tullyallen Choir. He gave 30 years of his life to teaching music and some of the finest singers and musicians of our time owe their success to the influence of Fr. Pat.

He was so well aware of the many gifts with which the good Lord endowed on him and he never ceased to praise and thank Him for them.

During his long life he served God well and for God's sake he served his fellow men well.

For Fr. Pádraig the long life has ended – the shadows have lengthened, evening has fallen, the busy world is hushed and his work is done. May God in his mercy give him a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace for all eternity.

Fr. Pádraig O'Kelly

14th March 1916 - 27th December 2008



Nick Cummins EI7IE, Silent Key

Nick Cummins EI7IE, who died on 25th January after a long illness, was a leading member of South Dublin Radio Club. Nick was a Radio Officer, who spent many years at sea. When he retired, his interest in radio was re-kindled by the enthusiasm for amateur radio of his son, Nicholas EI2JL.

Nick participated in many of South Dublin Radio Club's activities over the years, and became the club's unofficial video cameraman for many events such as field days, the Shannon River Run and the installation of new antennas at the club QTH.

Given his background, Nick was not surprisingly a strong advocate of Morse Code. He was also a real gentleman, so the discussions he participated in at club meetings over the pros and cons of the Morse requirement for the HF bands were invariably affable.

May he rest in peace.

Obituary – Eamon Cassidy EI5AJ

It is with deep regret that I learnt of the death of my good friend Eamon Cassidy EI5AJ.

Eamon passed away peacefully on 28th January 2009 at his home in Limerick. He had not been well for some time but he fought a brave battle, in the loving care of his wife Margot and family.

I first met Eamon more than 40 years ago, through our mutual interest in amateur radio. His call-sign EI5AJ was very well known at the CW end of the bands. He was an expert CW operator. It was not surprising that he was invited to become a member of the International First Class Operators Club.

His CW could be described as almost musical- always sent perfectly in his own particular fist. He was the only amateur I know who could send Morse at a very high speed and at the same time carry on a routine conversation with someone present in the shack!

Eamon was involved in the Limerick Radio Club, almost from its foundation. He took a very active part in club affairs and served on its committee for many years. He also served as Chairman of the club on a number of occasions.

On a personal note, I will always be grateful to Eamon for all the help and encouragement he gave me, when I was preparing for my amateur radio examination. He helped me with theory and also taught me Morse code. Thanks to his efforts I passed the exam and eventually got my own licence in 1965.

I will never forget my first CW QSO. I had arranged a sked with Eamon on 40 metres. The scary moment had arrived. As you would expect I was painfully slow on the key. He listened patiently and helped me to complete my first contact, which introduced me to the wonderful world of amateur radio.

In the 1960's and 70's Limerick Radio Club travelled to many of the islands off the west coast of Ireland on DX-peditions. These DX-peditions became very popular in the club and it was not unusual to have 20 or more participants on these outings. Usually a number of stations were in operation and needless to say Eamon was always in charge of the CW station. The DX-peditions to the islands were very enjoyable occasions for club members and friendships made there have endured over the years.

In the early 1970's Eamon had been very active in promoting the idea of a 2 metre voice repeater for the club. Eamon's enthusiasm and persistence paid off, as a decision was taken by the club to go ahead with the project.

A suitable QTH on a mountain top near Killaloe, Co Clare was identified and the construction work commenced. Eamon was actively involved in the engineering work on the mountain site. After a lot of very hard work the installation was completed and the repeater was switched on. I am happy to say that it has been in continuous operation to the present day. The 2 meter repeater remains as a testament to Eamon's vision and foresight in proposing this project to the club in the first instance. This was one of the first 2 metre amateur radio repeaters in Ireland.

In the early 1980's Eamon disappeared from the local radio club for a time. He was not to be seen or heard at club meet-



ings. We wondered what had happened. Well we did not have to wait too long to find out what he was doing. He had started flying lessons at Coonagh Airfield. After the usual training he obtained his private pilot's licence and took his first solo flight. His description of this was nail-biting and hair-raising.

He became a very competent pilot and received an award for precision landing at his flying club. At this stage, flying had taken precedence over amateur radio. Over the years he did quite a lot of flying, both in Ireland, USA and UK etc. However I am pleased to say that when he eventually retired from active flying, he returned to amateur radio and became involved in the radio club again.

In latter years, Eamon was not as active on the bands as he had been in the early days. However he usually checked into the local repeater from time to time, even from his /A QTH at "Costa del Kilkee", where he spent many happy days with his XYL Margot and his family. He regularly checked into the 2 metre news bulletins on the repeater to give a signal report to the local news reader. In that way he kept in touch with fellow club members. More recently, his appearances on the repeater became less and less. Perhaps he was beginning to lose interest in the hobby, due to his illness.

With Eamon's passing I have lost a good friend of many years - a friend who will be sadly missed by me and by all his friends in Limerick Radio Club.

On behalf of all the members of the club and on my own behalf I would like to offer deepest sympathy to Margot, Jane, Andrew, Sharon, Raymond (EI3II) and to his extended family on their very sad loss.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dhilis

Tony Condon EI2AW

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

76th Annual General Meeting

April 26th 2009

Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1430 on Sunday April 26th at the Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone.

Committee Nominations

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days notice prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President		Paul Martin EI2CA	
Vice-President		Seamus McCague EI8BP	
Committee		EI6IZ	Brendan Minish
EI2HX	Pat Fitzpatrick	EI6JK	Mark Condon
EI4GK	Sean Donelan	EI7GY	Joe Ryan
EI4GXB	Ger McNamara	EI8CC	Ger Gervin
EI4HH	James Holohan	EI8JB	Charlie Carolan
EI4HX	Peter Grant	EI9HX	Pat O'Connor

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)

See Page 26 of the current Year Book for all the rules relating to elections.

Trophy Nominations

The following trophies are awarded for services to the hobby or the society at the Annual General Meeting:

Arup Cup
Michael Collins Memorial Trophy
Pat Conway Perpetual Memorial Trophy

Nominations are sought for these trophies and they should be sent to the Chairman of the Award Sub-committee:

Peter Grant EI4HX 087-9772904
ei4hexperimental@eircom.net

Home Construction

There are two awards on offer for home construction.

The Folan Shield is awarded for home constructed equipment built to the highest standard and a technical write-up including the specification of the item is required.

The Kevin Freeny Trophy is also awarded but does not require the technical write-up.

Entries for these awards should be presented to the Awards sub-committee on the day of the AGM. Advance notice of your intention to enter would be appreciated.

Trophy Returns

Winners of Trophies at the 2008 AGM are requested to arrange the return of the trophies for cleaning and engraving as soon as possible.

Condolences

Condolences to Paddy EI6CP whose wife Evelyn died recently.

Paddy was for very many years the IRTS QSL Manager and will be well known to the older members of the Society and of course to those involved in the Fingal Radio Club.

Condolences to Joe EI4FV on the death of his wife Lily.

Joe was Treasurer of IRTS for many years and was very involved with the Blind and Disabled Group and North Dublin Radio Club.

IRTS AGM Weekend

This year, the Shannon Basin radio Club have taken on the job of hosting the IRTS AGM over the weekend of April 25/26th. Its quite a few years since the AGM was held in Athlone, the last one being the foot and mouth year when we just had the meeting without as arally or dinner.

They have selected an excellent venue in the Shamrock Lodge Country House Hotel and Conference Centre well located in the town of Athlone.

The weekend will follow the usual format with the annual dinner on the Saturday night, with the rally and AGM on Sunday.

Your support for the dinner is important and we look forward to seeing a big attendance.

For those not wishing to stay in the hotel, there is a good range of Bed and Breakfast establishments quite convenient to the AGM venue.

IRTS Webmaster

Gerry Kavanagh EI8DRB has taken over the position of IRTS Webmaster.

Joe EI7GY continues as the Membership Records Officer for the society and also as part of the team that organises the theory examination for the Experimenter's Licence.

Theory Classes in Cork

Classes for the next theory examination in the summer have commenced in the Cork area.

Anyone interested in joining the class should contact the IRTS Region 5 Representative Dave Moore EI4BZ on 087-6290574 or by email at ei4bz@eircom.net.

IRTS AGM Weekend

Hosted by Shannon Basin Radio Club

**Shamrock Lodge Country House Hotel
& Conference Centre, Athlone**

Telephone 0906-492601

April 25/26th 2009

***Annual General Meeting
Sunday 26th April 2009 at 1430.***

***Annual Dinner
Saturday 25th April 2009.***

Tickets €35.00

Tickets available from:

Michael EI4AL, Mickey EI5EAB, Tony EI6DL and Pat EI9HX. (contact details below)

***Rally with Bring and Buy
All the usual traders
Sunday 26th April 2009.
Doors opening at 1000***

All enquiries to:

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bourkes@hotmail.com

Michael White EI5EAB

090-6479643

ei5eab@hotmail.com

Tony Magliocca EI6DL

086-2633311

ei6dl@eircom.net

Pat O'Connor EI9HX

087-6767707

ei9hx@eircom.net

Local B & B's

Shannon Side House, West Lodge Road (Mark and Linda Egan) Phone: 090 6494773

High Trees, Clonown Rd, Athlone (Next to front gate of the hotel) Phone: 090 6492547

Bastion B&B, 2 Bastion Street, Athlone 090 6494954

(Anthony and Vinny Mc Cabe; only 5 min walk from hotel)

Riverdale House, Canal Banks, Athlone Phone: 090 6492480



HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to the latest edition of 'HF Happenings' and of course this being the first in 2009! Despite being at the bottom of the solar minima, 2008 was a rather productive year with although some limited openings on the higher of the HF bands, regular and daily openings were to be had on most bands. As can be expected, 20M was the 'bread and butter band' with it being quite obtainable to catch all 40 CQ zones with a little determination. 30M & 40M were in close shadows of each other and even 80M was most surprising when least expected. Being a relative newcomer to 160M and being a little ignorant to these happenings, really opened my eyes as to what could be achieved here. I can only assume that 2009 is going to follow suit and will provide somewhat similar openings as 2008 yielded. Here's looking forward to an enjoyable and productive year ahead.

The following covers the past year in depth, and permission granted from Joe, W1JR to reproduce his end of year review is most welcome. One can only imagine the sheer amount of work and knowledge that goes into producing something of this standard so I hope you will all appreciate and enjoy his findings from the past year.

The year 2008 was very similar to what we experienced in 2007. The solar minimum, promised for October 2007 with 3.0 average sunspots, turned out to be a false finish. Despite some small sunspots from the upcoming Solar Cycle 24, Solar Cycle 23 hasn't died yet and Solar Cycle 24 hasn't really taken off. In fact, it now looks like there was a double minimum 10 months apart and that August 2008 had even fewer average sunspots (1.1) then October 2007.

Very few solar disturbances occurred in 2008 except for a small one at the end of March with the solar flux mainly staying at 70 or below all year. With so few sunspots and low solar flux, good DX propagation is still mainly confined to the lower HF bands. Since official sunspot numbers are a moving index that is 9 months after the fact, the waiting game for Solar Cycle 24 taking off goes on!

In September I visited Dr. Mausami Dikpati at UCAR (The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research) in Boulder, Colorado in an attempt to see what the solar scientists are predicting. She is the person who predicted a very strong Solar Cycle 24 (<http://ucar.edu/news/releases/2006/sunspot.shtml>) and feels that her predictions are still on target. When asked about the long solar minimum we are experiencing, she pointed out that there have been other long minimums such as between Solar Cycles 12 and 13. She is still holding firm on her computer model accuracy and that Solar Cycle 24 will be a stronger cycle than the previous one, albeit stating later than predicted. This could result in a more compressed solar cycle.

That being said, there was still plenty of DX activity in 2008 albeit mostly concentrated on 160 through 17 meters with 20 meters being the bread winner although 17 meters was not too far behind during daylight hours. 30 meters is becoming more popular and so far over 75 DXCC entities have appeared on 60 meters despite the fact that USA stations are limited to 5 chan-

nels (!), USB only and 50 pep watts into a dipole. 10 through 15 meters were spotty at best and then mostly only on the North/South paths. Some sporadic E propagation especially in June and July did enhance DX but this was not due to increased sunspots.

Some new equipment and techniques were in evidence during 2008. 6 meters is often becoming a new band on many low frequency transceivers thus increasing activity on that band. Many low band stations were paying particularly attention to improving their receiving antennas (such as Beverages, loops etc.) to take advantage of the improved propagation when sunspot activity is low. Also, some manufacturers have been designing transceivers with particular emphasis on improving dynamic range so they have cleaner transmitted spectrum and improved receiver dynamic range. One such technique is improved "roofing filter" transceivers with a low first IF (intermediate frequency).

This yields better close in filtering and is often augmented with IF DSP (digital signal processing) to vary receiver bandwidth.

There are now several manufacturers offering software updates via the Internet not only for transceivers but antennas, rotator controls, logging programs etc. In particular there is a rise in the use of SDR (software designed radios) such as the Ten Tec Orion, Elecraft K3 and the FlexRadio Flex-5000 etc. Even some instrumentation such as the Array Solutions AIM-4170 Antenna Analyzer can be updated on the Internet.

There were even innovations in operating and contesting. One new concept called "Skimmer" uses a wide IF with external software to display CW call signs of many of the stations on a band in real time on a computer screen. However, this technique is not viewed favorably by many contesters. In a sense, it replaces the use of DX Clusters. Time will tell if this method of operating enhancement will be widely accepted like the days when 2 meter packet radio first came into operation.

Operating techniques are always changing. Split frequency operation, especially by DXpeditions has its own problems. Often calling stations are not aware of the split and QRM the DX. During several of this years major DXpeditions, I carefully monitored the DX station frequency. Often someone would hear this relatively clean frequency, jump right in, hear the DX station giving reports, imagined that they had a QSO and with impeccable timing would hear the DX station say TU and think they had a valid QSO! It goes without saying that if you aren't copying the DX station well enough to have a valid QSO or aren't aware of what technique is being used by the DX station, DON'T CALL! This is a good reason to check logs if they are posted on the Internet rather than receiving back a NIL (not in log) reply to your QSL.

Also, there are the usual problems with "policeman". If you can't refrain from saying something to the interfering stations, drop in a SHORT reminder like UP. Sending a long string of up up up up etc. or calling a station a lid often does more harm than good. Of course, obscenities are NEVER appropri-

(Continued on page 8)

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ate. Also, try not to rag chew on frequencies frequented by rare DX. 3.795, 14.195 and 14.260 (IOTA) MHz are just a few that come to mind. You may not hear the DX station but transmitting on those frequencies will make it difficult for others that are experiencing better propagation than you are.

During the year 2008, there were four main types of DX operations.

First, there was the usual activity from home stations. Next, there were many small single operator operations often working during off hours when on trips or family vacations. Then there were the smaller DXpeditions of a few operators and finally there were the large scale DXpeditions.

Many pirate operations showed up in 2008 using existing or unlicensed call signs. JX4JLK, JX7DFA, TU8/F5LPY, 5X1AB, C31FF, ZS8M and VP2V/G6AY are just a few that come to mind. WFWL (work first, worry later) with these stations does little good and sending a QSL is a waste of time and money.

2008 started out with lots of activity from Saint Barthelemy (FJ), our newest DXCC entity. Several other FJ operations on all bands from 160 meters through 6 meters followed during the year. Hopefully most DXers now have an FJ QSL cards in hand from at least one of those operations.

Even though January (with shortened daylight for those in the Northern Hemisphere) is a tough month for DXers, there were many entities activated. New Years Day usually is a great day for DXing since many semi-rare entities often show up. January activity from semi-rare entities was helped by operations from FO/M (Marquesas), 3D2R (Rotuma), 3Y (Bouvet), J5 (Guinea-Bissau), T2 (Tuvalu) and others. It is estimated that over 245 DXCC entities were activated during January and with some luck, good propagation and a very active well equipped DXer could have worked 200 DXCC entities during January.

February was also a very good month for DXers. We saw a first when the government of Oman finally allowed access to the 30 meter band. A45XR and A45WD put in a great effort to provide a new band entity for the masses. Other large scale activity was provided by TI9KK, several 9X stations and VP6DX from Ducie Island. VP6DX set a new standard for the most contacts (over 183,000) ever on a DXpedition. Despite being near the bottom of the sunspot cycle, they provided a strong signal on many bands often at the same time. They also had an elaborate receiving system and were very dedicated to exploiting difficult paths especially on 160 meters. Other smaller scale activity took place from VP8/G (S. Georgia), C21 (Nauru), and HK0 (San Andres). Finally, a large scale operation took place when Kosovo declared independence.

Unfortunately, this operation did not meet the latest DXCC criteria for a new entity but that may change in the near future. Keep an ear open.

March brought another large scale DXpedition as TX5C came on from the relatively rare Clipperton Island. They experienced very hot and stormy weather with equipment failures but gave out a new one for the Deserving. Other notable operations were from CE0Z, 9X, Spratly, 5T, JD1/M (Minami Torishima) as well as another group operating from St. Barthelemy.

April had an FOC (First Class Operators) group operating all HF bands primarily on CW from YK9G. June saw more 9L activity as well as a group effort as 4W0R from Timor-Leste. The month ended with activity from JX (Jan Mayen). July saw activity from CY0 (Sable Island) and FJ (St. Barthelemy) primarily dedicated to 6 meters but with some random HF activity. August had many stations on from the Beijing Olympics sporting BT call signs. KM9D put on a short operation from H40 and another station activated FO/M (Marquesas) in September.

October through the end of the year provided increased activity from some rarer entities. VK9DWX put on a large scale all HF band operation from Willis Island. More 9L DXpeditions came on from Sierra Leone and it's off shore islands for IOTA seekers. JA8BMK did a grand slam by operating from all the T3 entities as T30XX, T33ZZ, T31DX and finally T32YY. Both VU7 (Lakshadweep I.) and VU4 (Andaman I) were also activated on all HF bands. Other semi-rare operations included 3X (Rep. of Guinea) and HK0 (counting for San Andres) from former deleted entities of Bajo Nuevo and Serrana Bank.

All in all, and despite low solar activity, 2008 wasn't a poor DX year. Many DXpeditions provided increased coverage on 160 and 80 meters. Contests provided some interesting entities. It should also be remembered that contest oriented DXpeditions often come on a few days before the contest testing their gear and provide a good opportunity to snag a rare one.

There were approximately 293 DXCC entities activated during 2008, about the same as in 2007. CW did not die since I worked over 250 entities on CW, about the same number as worked in 2007. Many stations with no code licenses, especially outside the USA, have been operating on CW and some have shown great CW skills. One side effect is that we are seeing much more "599 TU" operations with not as much skill to copy other information. At the same time, some SSB operators have noticed an increase in activity, especially during SSB contests.

And now the Drum Roll please. Those entities that were NOT believed to have been active during 2008 (and are a useful guide to those planning future operations) are as follows:

Africa (12): 3B9, 3C0, 3C, 5A, D6, E3, FR/G, FR/J, FR/T, FT/Z, T5, and VK0 (Heard I.).

Antarctica (1): 3Y0 (Peter I.).

Asia (7): 7O, BS7H, BV9P, E4, EZ, P5, and XZ.

Europe (2): 1A0 and R1M (MV Island).

North America (5): CY9 (St. Paul), KP1, KP5, XF4 and YV0.

Oceania (13): 3D2/C (Conway Reef), FK (Chesterfield), KH1, KH3, KH4, KH5, KH5K (Kingman Reef), KH7K, KH8/S, VK0/M, VK9/M, ZL8, and ZL9.

South America (5): CE0/X, HK0/M, PY0/S, PY0/T and VP8/Sand.

Note that some rare entities may not be on this list. This is true since some operations, however short, were conducted. This applies to FT5XN, ZS8T and FT5WO to name a few.

A list of DXCC entities that have believed to have not been activated in the last 7 years are: 3D2C-Conway Reef, E3-

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Eritrea, FR/G Glorioso, HK0/M-Malpelo Island, KH5K-Kingman Reef, and KP1-Navassa Island. This shows that an avid DXer working hard at DXCC in the last 7 years should have been able to make the DXCC Honor Roll.

2009 will start out with a leap second (hi) followed by E44M operating from the semi-rare State of Palestine. Operation from ZS8T and FT5WO are expected soon. In February the rare Desecheo entity should be activated after many years of negotiations with the Fish and Wildlife Administration. Hopefully this operation will not only be successful on a grand scale but will open the door for a future operation from another rare entity, namely Navassa Island which has similar environmental restrictions. A possible DXpedition from FR/G (Glorioso I.) is still in the cards as are others that have not been officially announced.

The possibility of new entities being added to the DXCC list also exists. Kosovo may finally obtain all the needed requirements for separate status. The status of PJ (Netherlands Antilles etc.) may change as some of these Dutch Islands may become more independent from the Netherlands. If so, not only will a few new entities be created but for the first time some entities may actually be completely deleted from the DXCC list as if they never existed. However, the later changes from PJ will probably not take place until later in 2009 or early 2010.

Sunspots should surely reappear and Solar Cycle 24 will start to improve propagation on the higher HF bands. Look for the solar flux to go over 100 with low A (<20) and K (<3) indices. Solar wind below 300 KM per second and dynamic pressure less than 0.5 nPa as show on NOAA Space Weather are also good indicators.

Finally, DX means many different things to many people. Some DXers only are interested in the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll and soon run out of interest and challenges. Others pursue the never ending ARRL Challenge competition. Some like to chase Islands for the IOTA (Islands on the Air) program by the RSGB. There are approximately 1200 IOTA counters and many have never been activated so there are lots of challenges. For the last few years, CQ Magazine has reinstituted the year long CQ Marathon to see who can work the most entities in each calendar year. This program has a few more challenges by also adding several entities recognized only by CQ but not on the ARRL DXCC list as well as working all 40 zones. And there are the never ending DX Contests. There are lots of things to do. Don't let the airways die for lack of activity. Stay active and join the fun. Best of DX to you in 2009 and here's hoping to see you in the pile ups. (Compiled and edited by Joe, W1JR)

2008 also saw many changes to the EI member scores of the DXCC programme. As of 31st January 2009, there are currently 45 EI members to this programme.

New members were of course, Ger EI4GXB, Dave EI6AL & Declan EI9FVB. Several prestigious 'milestones' or 'firsts' were also most welcomed. The obvious one to credit goes to John, **EI7BA** who is the first EI to achieve his 9 Band DXCC. Denis **EI6HB** is the first EI to achieve DXCC on RTTY mode and Peter, **EI7CC** was the first to pass the 1,500 mark on the DXCC Challenge award. Special recognition to Declan, **EI6FR** who is presently the only EI to be No. 1 Honor Roll, to George,

EI6S and Alan, **EI8EM** who are both the latest additions to the Honor roll family and to Thos, **EI2JD** who made his 5 Band DXCC this year. At time of print, Pat, **EI8H** leads the overall Mixed DXCC total with a score of 349 (incl. deletes). Several other EI's also made their annual updates therefore adding to their DXCC totals. It's nice to see so much interest and participation thus proving that the DXCC program has a strong standing here in EI.

Congratulations to all recipients of their various awards.

That more or less brings 2008 to an official end and although it was my intention to feature the HF league table here, a few more participants would be nice so we will cover this in the next issue. If any one is interested in participating by sending me their list of total countries worked across each of the HF bands and a combined total, I'd appreciate it.

By the time this edition hits the front doormat, the much awaited KP5 DXpedition should be in full swing. Starting February 12th, K5D is the callsign from Desecheo Island and not some sort of Texan special event station. Desecheo currently ranks #6 in the world but is at #3 amongst us Europeans so this one will very much be in demand. Due to it's rarity, the team request for everyone's co-operation and are especially trying to give as many the chance of working an all time 'new one'! Therefore, they request that you refrain from working them on any band/mode that you may already have KP5 already confirmed. As Bob, K4UEE (Team leader) wittingly remarks 'Our objective is not to establish a world record for contacts...there will be no "greenies", no boxes to check, no competitions for most band/mode QSOs, no certificate or awards for contacting the DXpedition more times than anyone else. So, if you have KP5 already confirmed on a particular band/mode, we respectfully ask that you exercise restraint. If, late in the DXpedition, we are calling CQ for contacts, we will welcome your call'.

The Team are still seeking donations to help offset the incremental expenses involved. The team also have a web site at : <http://www.kp5.us> Good luck and here's hoping that many EI's make it through.

As previously mentioned in the last 'HF Happenings', Lord Howe Island will indeed be gracing the bands this March. This large multi-national team will be signing VK9LA. Team members are : IZ3ESV, K5YY, N2OO, N2OZ, SQ8X, SQ9DIE, SV2KBS, VK1TX, VK3HJ, VK3QB, VK4IO, VK4VCH, VK5CP, VK5PO, W5SL & VK4FW. Operations should begin on 24th March and the team hope to have 2 HP stations operational simultaneously. They will be QRV from 160M – 10M using CW/SSB & RTTY. Take a look at their web page for more information. <http://www.odxg.org/vk9la/htm> VK4FW will be handling all QSL requests and there will also be the OQRS available for those who make any contributions.

The forthcoming DXpedition team heading to Chatham Islands now have their web page up and running and is at url <http://www.zl7t.com> No prizes for guessing what their callsign will be, hi! This exclusive ZL team consisting of: ZL2AL, ZL2AAA, ZL2LE (YL), ZL2CC, ZL2RVW, ZL3AB, ZL2WG, ZL1ALZ, ZL1BYZ & ZL3JT will commence operation on March 5th and will run for 5 days therefore ending on Wednesday

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day March 10th.

They will be operating from the fabulous Chatham Fishing Lodge in the fishing village of Kaiangaroa on the far Northeastern tip of the islands (locator AE16ug). Being on a sandy spit almost completely surrounded by seawater means this location has an excellent low-angle takeoff in all directions and very low local noise levels (other than some tropical QRN and the odd unsuppressed outboard motor!), so they are confident of being able to work the world just so long as the bands are open. The village is no more than 30m ASL. The highest point on Chatham at 300m ASL is in the far South of the island. The team are concentrating on making contact with the 'newer' stations still needing ZL7. Running 4 High Power Icom stations they will be QRV on all HF bands, SSB/CW/RTTY & PSK. Lee, ZL2AL will be the QSL manager for this one.

3 German ops are still on schedule to activate Nendo Island (OC-100) this March. DK9FN, Siegfried hopes to be able to reactivate his old callsign – H40FN while DL2GAC, Bernhard, will be signing H40MS. DL2NUD Herrmann will try 2M EME but has yet to obtain his callsign. All these count as Temoto Province towards DXCC. Intended dates are from 2nd to 16th March.

JH2BNL (V63AR, V73J, NH0AA), Yuji Oda, an SSB and RTTY operator, and JA2NQG (V63WW, V73M, AH0F), Minekazu "Mine" Sugiyama, a CW operator, are planning a Micronesian island hopping event in March, 2009. Here is their agenda:

March 4-6 - V6 Chuuk OC-011 - V63AR and V63WW (maybe special callsign)

March 6-9 - V6 Pohnpei OC-010 - V63AR and V63WW (maybe special callsign)

March 9-11 - V6 Kosrae OC-059 - V63AR and V63WW (maybe special callsign)

March 11-14 - V7 Majuro OC-029 - V73J and V73M

March 14-16 - T8 Palau OC-009 - requested calls (T88AA and T88MM)

March 16-18 - KH2 Guam - NH0AA/KH2 and AH0F/KH2

The Micronesia activity will be on CW, SSB and RTTY on 1.8 through 28 MHz. QSL via the operator's home callsign.

A DXpedition to Fernando de Noronha (PY0F) is in the works for June 10th to 14th. Activity is expected on 1.8 through 28 MHz on CW and SSB. Details are still being worked out and should be available for inclusion in the next issue of 'HF Happenings'.

WA2USA/4 will be operating from Emerald Island (NA-112) from February 12th to 24th. Activity will be on RTTY, CW and SSB on 1.8 through 28 MHz.

Starting February 13th IV3CGJ will be QRV as FG/IV3CGJ/p from Guadeloupe Island (NA-102). He'll be there through February 24th. QSL via IV3CGJ.

PA/DL2JRM, Rene, will be QRV from Schouwen Duiveland (EU-146) on February 14th and 15th. He'll be on 80 through 10 meters on CW. QSL via DL2JRM.

The upcoming YW0A DXpedition team has announced more details on their March expedition to Aves Island. The almost

complete team of more than 15 operators plans to be QRV on SSB, CW and RTTY. They already have their transportation worked out with the Venezuelan Navy for a full week operation. The team is hoping to obtain sponsorship for amplifiers. The YW0A shirts, caps and banner are set to be printed. Their Web site <http://yw0a.4m5dx.info> will soon be updated with the latest news including their band plan and "operation program". The QSL manager for YW0A will be IT9DAA and QSOs will be uploaded to LOTW. YV5SSB, Alex, will be the team's leader with co-leaders YV5TX, Jose, and YV5MSG, Jesus.

It's nice to see that so many individuals and 'DX teams' are constantly providing us with some nice, meaty DX for us to be chasing from the comfort of our homes/shacks.

The next time you work a new band/mode slot, spare a little thought of what exactly has been involved in you getting that contact. All these above purported DXpeditions are constantly seeking funding/donations so do try to include an extra few dollars along with your QSL request. The required \$2.00 or IRC mostly covers the bare postage of returning your card therefore a little contribution towards the cost of the DXpedition goes a long way, i.e. moral support anyway, and may just get that team to activate somewhere else that you need.

Being active is the key to success, you may one day reach that goal of Honor Roll. Don't be an armchair DXer and just monitor that dreaded DX cluster, call CQ occasionally and you may be surprised of who comes back to you! It was great to see such a strong contingent of EI's on 80m for the IRTS 80M counties contest. I'm sure that there are many EI's who are active on the higher bands but may not have the space for a decent 80m antenna. This is a great opportunity for those to try operating portable although trying to get a few hours off on a New Year's Day may be tricky for many. Now, a Summer leg, hmmm, that would be interesting.

Regular as always are the contributors to this feature. Below you will find extracts from their logs from the past period.

John, EI9JO worked these following **80m** QSOs. CU7AAU, G4WBB, ON4PTC, OX3KQ, TM2PCI, S51CK, YT1KC, TA1CM & OZ7HT. **40m** worked GB90WWI, 3Z9OPR, EA8UP, LY100N, TS7C, CS95A & EG8UP. **20m** netted VA3DX, KG4RMD, KP4DKE, PY2W, 9Z4AM, WA1NRQ, TA3AX, K9RR/4, 6Y5RP, CS95A, UN7MMM, VP8YLC, LU8FEC, HI3D, CT3FT & VK2APG. **17m** scooped FJ/TO5DX, K5KKV, K0EOU, N8QS, VA3DL, LY70LRMD, J5UAP & 9A2009ST. **15m** worked AO8A, PY3DX, LU5EK, 7X4AN & V51AS. John uses an IC756 Pro2, 400W into various dipoles, verticals and a Cushcraft MA5B yagi.

My own log shows these **10m** QSOs : F4APS, LY1R, IK2CIJ, DL7JV, GW3YDX, LX1NO, PE7T, G0INA, OK1HX, ON1708M & OL5M. **17m** logged 7Q7BP, ET3JA, VK6LC, E44M, T77C, 8Q7DV, 5Z4LS, N1BAA, ZD8UW & P43JB while **20M** logged 6W/DL2RMC, C56KR, K0DR, E44M, V51AS, ZD8UW, AP2TN, A71CT & PS2T. Using dipoles for the following bands netted : CU5T, C31CT, TS7C, ZD8UW, UK9AA, 5N/LZ1QK, KP2/NY6X, DP0GVN, ZC4VJ & E72U all on **30m** while **80m** worked GT3EUG, ZC4VJ, OY3JE, CU8W, VP9/N1SNB, 9M2AX, EL2DX, SY9CVD, 5B8AD, TS7C, JT1BV, E44M & ZD8UW. Concentrating mainly on **160Mm** this time worked: EY8MM, P33W, TA2RC, RK2FWA, TF3CW, MD4K, CU8W, VE9DX, OH0E,

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ER0WW, EA8AK, UN5J, AC2AA, CT3MD, OX3KQ, TS7C, HI3TEJ, 4Z5LA, 4O3A, VQ9LA & HB0/DL2OBO.

Declan, EI9FVB also was quite busy over the past period. Running a IC756Pro2 and 400W into a dipole worked these **80m** QSOs : UT7NW, LY2T, YO9AGI, LX/DF1LON, 3V8BB, LZ9X, EH3MB, GB617SQN, 4Z4DX, TF8GX, 9H1JL, CN89NY, HB0/DL2OBO & TS7C. Using a 3 el Step-IR worked VU7NRO, A71CT, 4Z4DX, TO3R, TG9/IV3IYH, EK6TA, VO2NS, ET3AA & WK3N all on **20m** while **17m** being his more productive band this term logged : KP2AD, A92GR, TI8II, J5UAP, ET3JA, EA8YT, PT7ZT, CN8YE, PZ5RA, YV5EED, AA4V, A47RS/36, A61R, 9K2HS, PT7CB, TS7C, PJ4/N9JZ/M & VE3FZ. He also logged 4 **15m** contacts TG9NX, 8R1YL/P, J5UAP & VP8YLG.

John, EI7IG had very little available time to play radio this term although he logged these following **20m** QSOs while taking his new K3 for a test-drive! The majority of these were on digi-modes. LY1O, OH2AXE, YO9KC, HA1Z, SP6SOX, K3KT, CN89NY, KP2/NY6Z, E77A, 9A2009VZ, IT9Z & PD0DK. His antenna is a dipole.

Eoin, EI9O using a TS440 SAT, 400W into an 80M dipole for all bands worked these following **80m** QSOs ; E44M, TF3SG, HB0/DL2OBO, YV5SSB, F4FHT, DJ8GE, OM5MO, LX2HB, US1IW, HB3YRP & ON5TO. **20m** worked C56KR, VP8YLB, J5UAP, 5X4X, CS0RCL, CO6LC, ET3AA, VU7NRO, K6YRA, SV9GPV, VQ9RD, E77A, TO3R, JY4CI, VA6UK, 9H1VC, 7X5RS, TG9IGI, EW6GF & TS7C while **17m** logged ZD8UW, E44M, VU2PAI, VK6IR, PJ4/N9JZ, TA1KT, AC50, TI8II, J5UAP, VQ9RD, 9K2HN, N8QS, VA3PL, VU4RG, CN8SG & UY7MM. **15m** logged W9RE, LU6FOV, V26B, PW2D, LU4QN, SV9CVY, YT1ISM & AO8A.

Charlie, GI4FUE has had limited time on the bands but managed to log these following QSOs. Using a Flex 5000, 400W into a HF2V logged : S51TA, OK5W, OZ7YY, M6T & OM7JG all on **160m**. **80m** netted J88DR, 3A/K3OX, W3A, CU8W, LY1000W, UA9FMZ, 6W/DL2RMC, SN90JT, HE8FAP, 9A2009OS & SN0PGA. **40m** worked 9A2009ZG, LY1000M, N4AF, 9A5MT, OM7OM & V31WA. The majority of these above QSOs were on PSK31.

As you can see from all the above, the majority of activity is from 17m and below, but although there are still occasional openings from 15m up, no great deal of DX is readily available. 17 & 20m probably provide the furthest DX although judging from the past few weeks, these bands are seldom open after sunset.

For those that are not really active on 30/40 & 80m, give them a try, you will be pleasantly surprised.

Until next time, best DX to all.

P.S. Do try to submit your HF band/mode breakdown for 2008 as this will be included in the next HF Happenings.

As always, my sincere thanks to Bernie W3UR for allowing permission to extract information from the pages of the 'Daily DX', to Joe W1JR for his work on producing the 2008 end of year survey and to all who contribute to this column.

Vy 73 de Dave EI9FBB

Global QSL..

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Well, here is an option you might consider.

Global QSL, based in Israel, will print your cards including QSO details as required and forward them to bureaux world-wide.

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Preserve and Encourage CW Activity in 2009!

New Years 2009 may have come and gone but its never too late to resolve to help preserve and encourage CW activity across our amateur bands.

To celebrate the new year, come and join the **NAQCC** (North American QRP CW Club), a club for any and ALL CW enthusiasts around the world.

Our members include "Big Gun" contesters, hard-core QRPers, experimenters, ragchewers and SWLers; young and old alike. As different as we may be, we all share one thing in common, and that is our love for CW.

We welcome all who want to help support CW and have at least some interest in using QRP from time-to-time.

Our club runs monthly sprints and challenges. Plus we sponsor some additional special on-air activities during the year. Membership is free and once you join you're automatically a lifetime member!

So sign up today and help us keep CW alive and well.

Visit our web site at <http://www.usatek.net/~yoel/>.

You'll find info on all of our various activities plus an online membership application.

We look forward to your support and hope to soon see your call added to our membership roster.

73,

Paul/KD2MX

NAQCC Membership Recruiter

DXFC

The DXFC award differs from the DXCC award in that the letter F signifies setting FOOT in a DXCC entity.

Extra points are scored by being active and completing at least one QSO from the DXCC listed entity.

It is an informal friendly competition and scoring is based on trust and honesty

On Saturday 17th January, Roger G3SXW and John G4IRN activated EI and GI in the same day.

They both arrived from the UK by Ryanair at 1130 and were met by Declan EI6FR at Dublin airport and driven to Jonesboro where they operated /M from GI on HF.

They used a portable mast with a trapped dipole to make CW QSOs on both 20 and 40 metres.

Having completed a few CW contacts, Declan chauffeured the two operators to Howth where they both operated with an EI prefix using the radio equipment at EI0MAR in the Vintage Radio Museum. Pat Herbert, the museum curator, Tony EI5EM and Paul EI5DI were waiting to greet the two DXFC operators and assisted them in their operation.

Having completed their QSOs, John and Roger were driven by Declan back to the airport for their return trip to the UK at



Roger G3SXW, Tony EI5EM, John G4IRN, Declan EI6FR

1730 having successfully notched up a further two DXFC entities on their score sheet.

Roger now has visited 120 and operated from 76 DXCC entities. John has visited 53 and operated from 18.

The DXFC web site is www.dxfc.org and the Vintage Radio Museum's site is www.ei0mar.org.

Roger G3SXW is very well known in DX and contesting circles, being a member of the CQWW Hall of Fame, a member of the judging panel for the CQWW Contests and the WRTC. He's also a member of the very successful VooDoo Contest Group that operate in the CQWW CW contest from Africa.

He's been DXpeditioning for years and is the author of a number of books including "Up Two", "Contesting in Africa" and "Micro-DXpeditioning Uncovered"

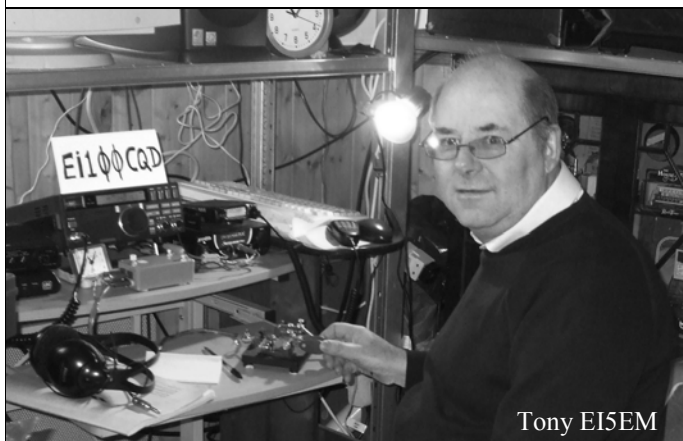
John G4IRN is also a very well known DXpeditioner and tester and is also a member of the VooDoo Contest Group.

(Thanks to EI6FR and EI5EM)

EI Listings on DXFC

	Visits	QRV
EI5DI	29	5
EI4BZ	27	9
EI6FR	24	12
EI7CC	20	8
EI2CL	18	2

EI100CQD at Howth Museum



Tony EI5EM

During the weekend of 23-25th January, EI100CQD was active from the Vintage Radio Museum in Howth to commemorate the centenary of the first use of wireless telegraphy to send a distress message at sea.

On 23rd January 1909, the RMS Republic was severely damaged when rammed by the SS Florida off Cape Cod in Massachusetts. The Republic eventually sank, but not before its

1600 passengers and 300 crewmembers were firstly transferred to the Florida and from there to the SS Baltic, which eventually arrived at the scene as a result of the distress call.

Jack Binns was the radio operator aboard the Republic and, despite the radio room being damaged and being exposed to the elements, he managed to patch up the equipment and continue to transmit for almost two days summoning help and guiding rescue ships to the scene.

The Baltic was the first vessel on the scene having searched in the dense fog for over 12 hours.

CQD was the international distress call used at that time.

To commemorate the event, EI100CQD took part in the celebrations, along with other stations around the world.

As was considered fitting, CW was the preferred mode of operation. However, on Sunday, the station was also QRV on phone listening for EIs on 2 and 40 metres.

Forty was almost unusable for EI but several QSOs were completed on 2 metres.

Tony (EI5EM) was interviewed about the event for Seascapes on RTE1 radio and the programme was transmitted on the date of the centenary.

A podcast of the programme is available on the RTE web site.

There is also a clip on youtube.com that can be found by searching youtube for EI100CQD

For more details on the disaster, see www.jackbinns.org



International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System

with Ger McNamara EI4GXB

Welcome to the first IARU Monitoring System news for 2009 and I would like to wish all IRTS members a very happy New Year.

We are currently testing an Intruder Logger system from Kari OH5YW which can be found here <http://peditio.net/intruder/bluechat.cgi>. This is a very useful tool and I would appeal to all members to log in and have a look around and report any intruder reports directly on the site. This is one of a number of tools available to IARU Region 1 which we hope will eventually be used by all member societies and their members.

I have been involved in the latest QRM issue on the DX window of 80 Metres, along with other amateurs around Europe, which was causing major concerns among DX'ers. With a lot of co-operation we have been successful in stopping this QRM, and this again shows the behind the scenes work being carried out by the IRTS on behalf of its members.

Here is the latest intruder news from 31 January:

kHz	UTC	Date	ITU	Ident	Mode	BD	SH	Details
3560.054	1800	daily	KRE		A3E			BC from North Korea, fundamental
7000.000	All Day	daily	LBY	no ITU	FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "NALUT" "DARAG", Libyan GMRA
7000.000	All Day	daily	DJI	no ITU	FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "ASD" DKJ "LNM", French MIL
7000.000	various	daily	CHN	no ITU	FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "205" "206" "260" "2062" PRC-net
7000.800	0800	26.01.09	RUS		OFDM	35.6	2700	OFDM 60 tones, Kaliningrad - screenshot
7018.000	various	daily	RUS	REA4	F1B	50	1000	only idle - Russian Airforce Moscow
7038.700	All Day	daily	UKR	D	CW			Beacon "D" - Sevastopol
7038.800	All Day	daily	RUS	P	CW			Beacon "P" - Kaliningrad
7038.900	All Day	daily	RUS	S	CW			Beacon "S", Murmansk
7039.000	All Day	daily	RUS	C	CW			Beacon "C" - Moscow
7039.100	All Day	daily	RUS	A	CW			beacon "A" - area of Volgograd
7039.300	All Day	daily	RUS	K	CW			Beacon "K" - Petropavlovsk
7044.000	All Day	daily	RUS	REA4	A1A			only dots - Russian Airforce Omsk
7051.000	1600	daily	IND	AIR	A3E			BC IM-product from All India Radio
7054.000	various	daily	RUS	F1B	50	200		Russian MIL - Moscow
7094.000	1800	daily	RUS	VOR	A3E			BC splatter from 7105
7095.000	various	daily	GEO	no ITU	FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "DMC" "JRB" "F1L" "SFS" - GEO
7160.000	various	daily	GEO	no ITU	FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "F1L" "FTT" "MDK" - possibly GEO
10147.000	1500	daily	FEa		LSB			Far East intruder net - INS?
14000.000	0803	daily	POR		DRM			noise shield from DRM on 13810 kHz
14000.000	various	daily	SNG	no ITU	FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "CN3" "70" - Singapore Navy
14000.000	various	daily	CLN	names	LSB			Tamil net from Sri Lanka
14002.000	various	daily	CHN		FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "183" "642" - PRC-net
14015.000	1645	20.01.09	E	names	USB			Spanish fishery, strong signal
14015.000	various	daily	HN	no ITU	FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "130" "140" "144" - PRC-net
14026.000	various	various	RUS		J7D	120	2600	MPSK12, AT3004D, RUS MIL Moscow
14075.000	various	daily	KRE	no ITU	FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "510" "563" "635" - KRE KCIA
14093.900	various	daily	CHN	no ITU	FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "144" - PRC-net
14119.000	various	daily	FEa		FSK8	125	1750	ALE, "TXZ" "YW2" "YW3" - FEa?
14143.000	various	daily	RUS		J7D	120	2600	MPSK12, AT3004D, West Russia
14295.153	various	daily	TJK		A3E			3rd from 4765 - Radio Tajikistan
14300.000	0840	31.01.09	RUS		P0N			RUS OTH radar ABM2, 50 pps screenshot
14350.000	1700	daily	IRN	IRIB	A3E			2nd from 7175 - Radio Tehran

UTC = universal time coordinated (=GMT) /// ady = all day /// vt = various times /// dly = daily /// vd = various days

date (dd.mm.yy) /// IDENT = call, selcall /// MODE = USB, LSB, A3E = AM, F3E = FM, F1B (= FSK), G7B, J7D

ALE = MIL-188-141A /// AF = Airforce /// con = continuous) /// ITU = ITU-abbreviation /// BD = baud /// SH = shift (Hz)

/// DETAILS = observed details /// uniden (ui) = unidentified /// AF = Airforce /// MOI = Ministry of Interior /// MOD = Ministry of Defense

/// MFA = Ministry of Foreign Affairs /// MEa = Middle East /// FEa = Far East /// EAf = East Africa /// CAf = Central Africa

/// CIS = Community of Independent States (earlier UDSSR) /// NAF = North Africa /// NEU = Northern Europe

/// PRC = People's Republic of China /// PLA = People's Liberation Army (China) /// pps = pulses/second (Radar) /// CIS = Community of Independent States

/// emba = embassy /// DPRK = Democratic People Republic of North Korea /// NGO = Non Governmental Organization

/// MOPO = Ministry of Public Order /// FSK = frequency shift keying /// PSK = phase shift keying

That's it for this issue, please keep your reports coming into me via email ei4gxb@gmail.com, or via Mobile on 087 2532512 or at home on 061-354922

73

Ger McNamara, EI4GXB

What are they BLOGGING on about now?

Recently we added to the IRTS web site a page of links to amateur radio blogs. There are probably thousands of blogs out there with an amateur radio content. Let's have a look at what some of them are talking about.

EI7GL....Blog, scratchpad and links

John EI7GL maintains one of the more active amateur radio related blogs in EI. At the time of writing, he had posted 8 new topics in the month of January. We learn from his blog that John has been busy over the past few months, pulling all his QSOs and QSLs-received data into a single log. We read how he eventually gets his 23,000 QSOs into VQLog and uploads them to Logbook Of The World. In between this activity, John writes about his lack of success with E44M (DXpedition to Palestine) and what he could have called "The curious case of the SWL QSL card".

<http://ei7gl.blogspot.com/>

KE9V's Blog

Jeff Davis KE9V, a well known writer and speaker, who first came to fame with a popular series of podcasts entitled "Long Delayed Echoes", maintains a wide-ranging blog covering new developments in amateur radio interspersed with his own strongly-held views on the future of our hobby. Like the blogs of many of our US cousins, Jeff is not afraid to air his views on many topics, radio and otherwise. Sometimes, the comments received in response to his posts are as interesting as the original post!

A blog well worth bookmarking.

<http://ke9v.net/category/ham-radio/>

JJ8KGZ Hiroto Tsukada ("Leo") 'A Brasspounder's Cafe'

Moving on to Japan, we get a different perspective altogether from the blog written by Leo JJ8KGZ, who describes himself as "... an enthusiast of CW operation ... with 3 kids and lovely wife". Leo gives us a blend of amateur radio and Japanese family life and culture. He is clearly into QRP and has recently completed assembling an Elecraft KX-1 transceiver. In a side-by-side test to compare the receive capabilities of the KX-1 with his Yaesu FT-1000, Leo found that the KX-1 comes out tops. He is now putting the finishing touches to a Norcal 40A transceiver.

<http://jj8kgz.blogspot.com/>

M0SCG Sands Amateur Radio Contest Group

This blog tracks the ups and downs of this group, based in North Lancashire. The group participates in local and international contests and has also mounted DXpeditions to the Scottish islands. This blog has plenty of photographs, and as such is a good example of the saying that a picture is worth a thousand words. Perhaps aimed mainly at attracting new members?

<http://m0scg.blogspot.com/>

Antenna Modelling with WX7S

Terry Dettmann WX7S is something of an expert on antenna modelling, and his blog consists of regular posts that work through the basics of practical antenna modelling. This is a

G3XBM's ham radio blog

Roger G3XBM's blog mostly about his QRP ham radio exploits.

SUNDAY, 25 JANUARY 2009

Help in the shack?



Contest operating was a little slower this morning as I had a "little helper" in the shack. This is my 14 month old grandson, Lucien, who is staying with us at the moment.

He was fascinated by the morse key, so there is hope that a future radio ham is in the making.

Posted by Roger G3XBM at 11:57 0 comments Labels: g3xbm, grandson, shack

SATURDAY, 24 JANUARY 2009

Update from W2UW on his 20mW transceiver

My FETer (1 FET transceiver for 80m) appeared in SPRAT this month. The circuit is very much based on a 40m transceiver created by Glenn Yingting, W2UW. His original 40m version, on which mine was heavily based, is called the FET-1. Today I got a nice e-mail from him with an update on his results.

Dear Roger, I was surprised to see your little article in the sprat mag about your FETer, it was interesting. I am glad to see that you credited me. By the way, you might be interested in knowing that I have made 451 QSOs with my little rig. I have not met my goal of working all of the states east of the Mississippi river. Hi I still have 4 to go (Fla., Ala., Geo., and Miss.) They are way down there! I may have to wait until the next "peak". I am 81 yrs. old and still think radio is "magic". Hi

Glenn W2UW

Links

- * QTH locator GoogleMap app
- * DX cluster
- * On-line SDR (Netherlands)
- * Solar Data
- * G3XBM's QRP website

G3XBM 2009 QRP DXCC

All band - 19
10m - 2
6m - 0
2m - 1
70cm - 1

G3XBM



Roger G3XBM /P in Wales

Blog Archive

topic that many radio experimenters have an interest in, and Terry's approach – taking it in easy steps – makes it quite accessible. Worth a visit.

<http://www.wx7s.com/wordpress/?cat=3>

G3XBM's ham radio blog

Another QRP enthusiast, Roger Laphorn G3XBM, whose published designs includes a one FETer transceiver, maintains a very active blog which charts his adventures with QRP operating. He also offers views on amateur radio activities in general and is always an interesting read. One of his recent posts shows a massive 5el 80m and 3el 160m antenna used by OH8X. Roger comments that "... this is certainly not my idea of ham radio ..." and I am inclined to agree with him!

<http://g3xbm-qrp.blogspot.com/>

Alan Steele VA3STL's Weblog

You learn something new every day: I chanced across the Alan's blog a few weeks ago, and was introduced to an operating mode that was completely new to me – QRSS. This mode, involving very slow Morse (3 to 4 wpm), usually from very low power transmitters, QRPp (in the order of tens or hundreds of mW). Most (though by no means all) of the QRSS operation takes place in the 30 Metre amateur band in the sub-band between 10.140000 MHz and 10.140100 MHz (100 Hz window) with the typical QRSS signal using a bandwidth of less than 5 Hz. Recent posts by Alan include a report of a 100mW signal from Belgium being received in Ontario, Canada. Wow!

<http://va3stl.wordpress.com/>

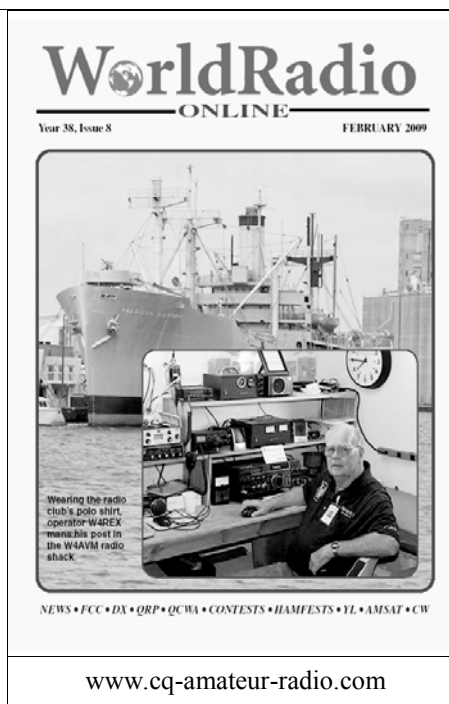
Links to these and many other Radio Experimenter/Amateur Radio Blogs can be found at www.irts.ie/blogs

Joe Ryan EI7GY

Two New Free Magazines on the Web



www.ham-mag.com



WorldRadio Magazine was recently purchased by CQ Communications following the retirement of publisher Armond Noble N6WR at the age of 74.

WorldRadio has been published monthly since 1971.

It is now published online by CQ Communications with Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position and it is free.

Log on to:

www.cq-amateur-radio.com

A new magazine from France 'Ham-Mag' (in English) has just published its second issue.

It had reached 3,434 subscribers on January 29th.

It too is free, just log on to:
www.ham-mag.com

Issue 2 runs to 41 pages.

CQ to Accept eQSL Confirmations for Award Credit

Hicksville, NY and Bedford, TX, January 13, 2009) - CQ magazine will accept contact confirmations made on the eQSL.cc electronic confirmation system for its operating awards effective immediately, CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, and eQSL Founder and Webmaster Dave Morris, N5UP, announced today.

There will be certain limitations and procedural differences for different awards, at least to start. Only confirmations from "Authenticity Guaranteed" members of eQSL will be accepted, and in accordance with existing eQSL policy, a membership level of bronze or higher is required in order to participate in award programs via eQSL.

"This is the first time that CQ has formally accepted anything other than traditional paper QSL cards for its awards," said Moseson. "We have been working with Dave Morris and his team for several months to assure that the integrity of our awards programs will be protected and to create mechanisms to make it easy for both award applicants and award managers to use eQSL credits toward our awards.

"We are pleased to be adding CQ to the top of our list of amateur organizations that accept electronic QSLs," said Morris. "CQ has some of the most highly sought-after awards, and we have been working behind the scenes for years to create credit submission mechanisms that would ensure the integrity of their programs without introducing any additional labour for the award managers. We believe the electronic QSL can drastically reduce costs, and the award application mechanisms we have developed will provide for more efficient processing at reduced cost for both the applicant and the award manager."

Applicants for the CQ DX and CQ DX Field Awards must print out their eQSLs and submit them along with their traditional QSLs to a CQ checkpoint or to CQ DX Awards Manager

Billy Williams, N4UF. eQSL has an automated process in place for applicants for CQ's Worked All Zones, WPX and USA-Counties awards. N5UP explains how that will work for the applicant:

"The applicant goes to the My Awards screen. He clicks on the particular award he wants to apply for. This brings up a list of the credits our system 'thinks' he is entitled to. There are checkboxes that allow him to check which ones he wants to use, and we automatically pre-fill one credit per category so he doesn't have to do anything if he wants to take the defaults.

At the bottom of the screen are two buttons: 'Submit to CQ' and 'Print Paper Application'."

The "submit" button will place all the selected QSOs into a file for the award manager to access, while the "print" button will generate a printed list to be submitted along with the traditional application. PLEASE NOTE that ALL applicants must send the award fee payment to the CQ Award Manager, regardless of how the application is submitted.

Some CQ award managers are now accepting PayPal; see individual award web pages for details. All awards will continue to accept traditional QSLs as well as eQSLs.

For the USA-Counties Award (USA-CA), applicants must note on their record books (or printouts) whether each county has been confirmed traditionally (with an "X" to the right of the entry) or electronically (with an "E" next to the entry).

For more information on eQSL, visit <<http://www.eQSL.cc>>.

For more information on CQ awards, visit the awards page on the CQ website at <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>>.

Please note that the award rules posted on the website have not yet been updated to reflect the acceptance of eQSLs.

This will be done as soon as possible, but the policy takes effect immediately.



Excerpt from the HX files

A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

Excerpt 003 - Another Project.

Hello and welcome to another Xtract from my files .
I hope your new years resolution to be a good radio experimenter and QSL 100% is still going strong and that you have let your QSL sub manager know your special event call sign, or that you have passed the Morse code test and that your old call sign QSL cards can be sent to EI???.
Anyway I digress - back to ATV.

The project in this months Echo Ireland is one that was started early last year when after a meeting I had with Michael EI5GG and Mark EI9FX. It was decided that we should make some ATV gear that was a bit more portable, sturdy and waterproof, with a bit of room for additions.
Also important are a bit more finger friendly fittings.
As I mentioned in a previous xtract I just don't go /p in the good weather and with cold and/or wet hands it does make connecting fittings more difficult.

As you /P'ers know, metal gets cold and as I was dealing with small nuts (I did say it was cold) and bolts, I decided to use some larger fittings even if they may be regarded as old hat. They are more robust and they end with the flange with a hole in each corner and a threaded fitting collar the other end (See under the Tx/Rx in photo # 1 opposite page).

In photo 2, the 10 GHz Tx/Rx can be seen with the top off and the parts labelled .
The 2.4 GHz Tx unit has an output of 10mw and the frequency is adjustable by a row of dip switches to give you the frequency you need.
Some of the components are bolted down onto a sheet of brass and some are soldered to the brass sheet. This was done to help with heat dissipation.
A disadvantage of soldering components to the sheet is if the upgrades are bigger you may have a major rebuild on your hands . Sure is that not the crux of home brew equipment builder .

Some of the components I used came from the Friedrichshafen rally in Germany (I mentioned the traders in a previous Echo Ireland) and others from stock and the brass sheet or shim came from a local engineering shop.
Maybe I will bring some of my surplus stock to some of the rallies this year and any other info I have.

The article in this months Echo Ireland is not a construction article, just a few notes and pictures of one of my home construction projects.
Who knows, maybe in a future Echo Ireland I will go into more detail
The 10 GHz Tx/Rx is fitted with a 40cms wide dish and within a few moments I can put the larger 75cms wide dish for a narrower beam width.
The only hole I drilled in the project box was for an SMA panel mount fitting to connect the cable to the dish which has a waveguide to SMA adapter bolted onto it .
As you can see in photo 2, I have connected some waveguide to



Pat EI2HX operating portable on 10GHz

the top of a tripod.
The tripod has a large platform on top of it for bolting the waveguide to it and the collar connectors on each end and it is ready to go portable .
The Tx/Rx is held onto the tripod by Velcro strapping for the moment but I am looking into some kind of bonding agent to attach to the base of the project box and a metal plate with some form of connections to attached to the tripod.

Connectors

On the subject of connections, the most common of ATV aerial fittings I have come across on the Tx and Rx boards are SMA and N types.
There are various types of connectors you can get to adapt to SMA or N type if you have a different type of termination. See photo 3 for some of the different types I have come across on my travels. Some are panel mount back to back types, others the same with a small amount of coax between ends and others are just the in-line back to back type.
Even the wave guide can come with some different flange ends, the square type with bolt holes in each corner or the round type that use a couple of threaded rings to secure each other (although this type of termination is now regarded as old hat). The wave guide is also available new in various lengths with or without the flanges on them .
The lengths of wave guide are available in brass or copper. You will also get various lengths that are flexible and others that are semi-rigid and of various angles to suit your specifications.
The flexible and semi-rigid would in most cases have the flanges moulded on to the ends .
Thanks to Thos EI2JD once again for taking the photos for me.

73 and good DX to you.
Pat EI2HX

Photo 1

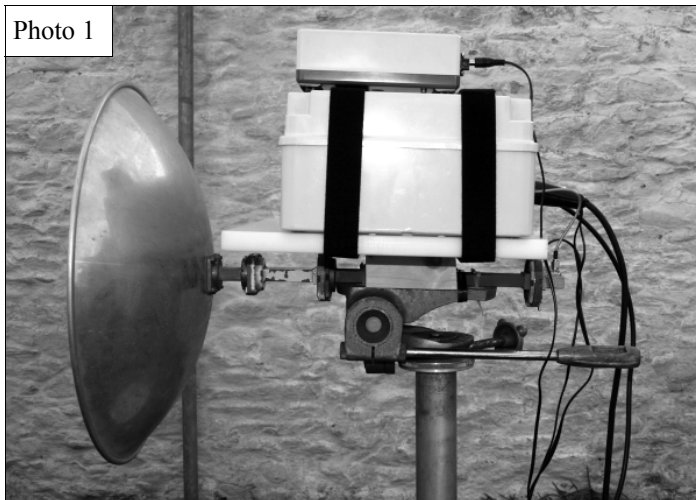


Photo 2

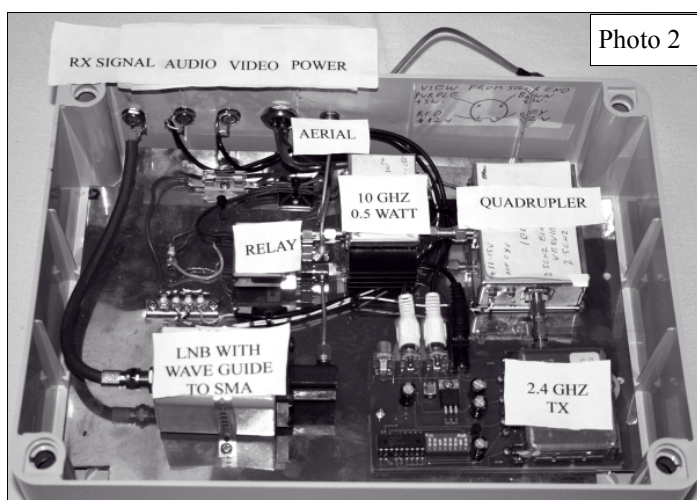


Photo 3



40 Years of the Radio News

In 1968, the IRTS approached the Department of Posts and Telegraphs for permission to transmit a weekly news bulletin of general interest to radio experimenters and amateurs. The 19th of January this year saw the 40th anniversary of the commencement of these news transmissions.

The Radio News has been kept going over the past 40 years without interruption even during the occasional postal strike when the typed news scripts were delivered by hand to the small number of newsreaders involved.

Initially the news was read at 1200 local each Sunday on 3560 kHz AM by either the late Bill Mc Ilwaine EI9F from Dublin or the late Pat Conway EI3Z from Athlone.

This was followed at 1230 by an SSB transmission read by Jim EI2BB.

The news was also transmitted on 2 metres from Navan, read by the late Shane McNamee EI2A.

Over the years the news service has expanded and today, in addition to the news on HF, regional news bulletins are transmitted on 2 metres FM from different locations throughout the country.

On this 40th anniversary of the radio news service it is good to give a moments thought and to pay tribute to those who have kept the service in operation over those 40 years, both scriptwriters and newsreaders alike.

Special mention must be made of two current newsreaders who have given exceptional service to the Society.

Sean Nolan EI7CD has been reading the news on 80 and 40 metres for 32 years and is still going strong and has served the Society in many other capacities over the years. He is currently on the IRTS committee with responsibility for ComReg liaison, IARU and External Awards/WEIC. He is an honorary Vice President of the Society and served as President from 1977 to 1979.

Colm Ardiffe EI3H who currently reads the news on 40 metres every Sunday has been the job since 1983.

That's 26 years of great commitment to his fellow experimenters.

Colm is licensed for 56 years having been first licensed in 1953

May we hear Sean and Colm for many more years on Sunday mornings.

Another long serving newsreader, sadly now a silent key, was Albert Latham EI6AS.

Albert read the news on 2 metres SSB from South West Dublin and always put a fine signal all around the country.

The news is currently broadcast on VHF from Dublin, Waterford, Louth, Limerick, Cork and Galway and Tipperary.

It is also broadcast in the Irish language on Sunday mornings at 1130 from Wicklow.

Our thanks also to all the news editors over the years and to all who contributed news items.

South Dublin Radio Club Christmas Party 2008 at the Morgue Inn (Pictures EI7FM)



Bob EI6GDB



Brendan EI4BB



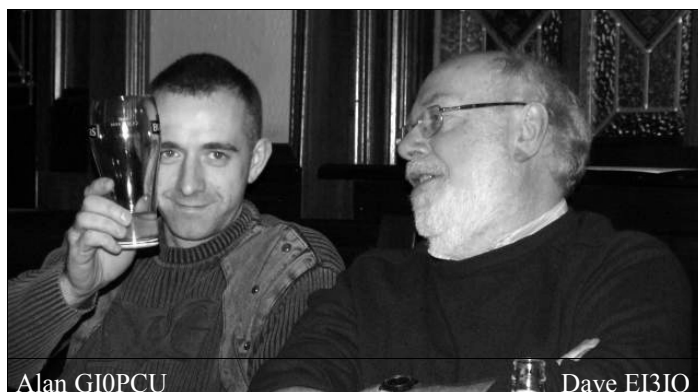
Fred EI4GMB



Paul EI2GSB

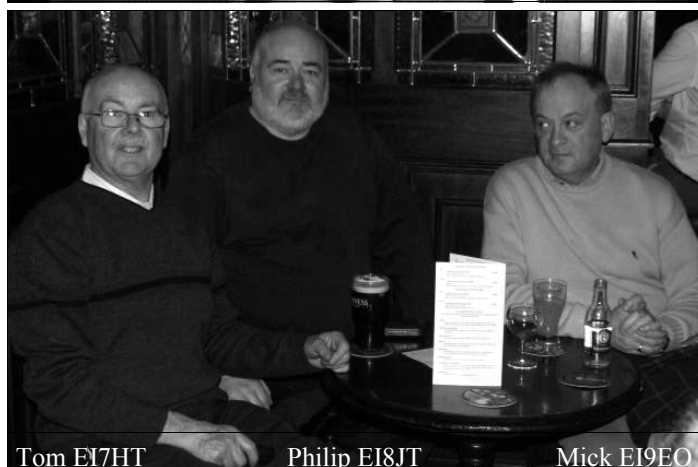


Nicki EI9JF



Alan GI0PCU

Dave EI3IO



Tom EI7HT

Philip EI8JT

Mick EI9EO



Derek EI7FM

Terry EI4GLB

Fred EI4GMB



Joe EI7GY

Mike EI3DY

Brendan EI3GV

Jim EI4HH



Mike EI3DY



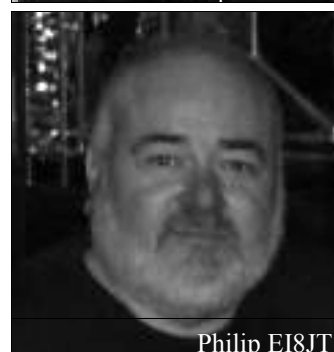
Hugh EI6CPB



Kyle EI2JO



Stephen SWL



Philip EI8JT

South Dublin Radio Club

At the first meeting of SDR of the New Year, Dave EI3IO gave a presentation on "Human Exposure to Electromagnetic Energy". In this presentation, Dave explained that RF energy from radio transmissions would fall into the category of "non-ionising radiation".

Dave covered the ways in which this radiation can be measured, the views of various international bodies on safe limits and the precautions that can be taken to minimise exposure. He also referred to the regulations applicable to experimenters in relation to non-ionising radiation.

Following Dave EI3IO's talk on RF exposure limits, the slides from the presentation have been put on the SDR website, in the talks section.

South Dublin Radio Club meets every Tuesday evening at 8.00 pm in its temporary QTH at the Scout Hall, Templeogue Lodge, Templeogue Dublin.

Club website: www.southdublinradioclub.ie

Revised Bandplans now on RSGB site

The 2008 IARU Region 1 General Conference held in Cavtat resulted in some changes to the band plans which are now available on the RSGB site. For further information regarding IARU band plans see the following website:
www.rsgb.org/spectrumforum/bandplans/

4 Metres in Denmark

As of 1 January 2009 Danish radio amateurs can also use the 70.225 MHz channel, i.e. the segment 70.2125-70.2375 MHz. This also means that two smaller segments are now joined into one segment 100 kHz wide. For more details see the Danish bandplan:
www.70mhz.org/bandplan_oz.htm

Input for Radio News & Echo Ireland to newsteam@irts.ie

ARRL Introduce New Triple Play Worked All States Award



- 1 The Triple Play WAS (Worked All States) Award is available to all amateurs worldwide who must use Logbook of the World (LoTW) to confirm QSOs with each of the 50 states on voice, CW, and digital modes.
The Triple Play WAS Award is a serial-numbered award starting with # 1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application submitted via LoTW. Awards issued will be tracked and presented on the ARRL Website.
- 2 Two-way communications must be established on amateur bands with each state on each mode. There is no minimum signal report required.
Any or all bands (except 60 Meters) may be used for the Triple Play WAS. The District of Columbia *may* be counted for Maryland.
- 3 Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants, please include clearly the club name and callsign of the club station (or trustee).
- 4 Contacts **must be made after 0000Z on January 1, 2009** to be considered for this award. LoTW will be programmed to automatically use this criterion. Contacts must be confirmed via LoTW. Written confirmations will not be accepted.
- 5 There are no endorsements for the Triple Play WAS Award.
- 6 Contacts made through "repeater" devices or any other power relay method cannot be used for WAS confirmation.
A separate WAS is available for Satellite contacts.
All stations contacted must be "land stations." Contact with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted.
EXCEPTION: Permanently docked exhibition ships, such as the Queen Mary and other historic ships will be considered land based.
- 7 A US applicant must be an ARRL member to participate in the WAS program. DX stations are exempt from this requirement.
- 8 Attempts to falsify data, logs, or other application operations may be grounds for disqualification.
The decision of the ARRL Awards Committee in such cases is final.
- 9 Please follow the instructions presented on the LoTW website.
The cost of the Triple Play WAS award is \$12 for a certificate delivered to a U.S. address, or \$13 delivered to an address outside U.S.A.
Per-QSO fees associated with using LoTW credits as normal will be charged via the online application.

Listen for new Sats using web receiver

You can listen for the five new Amateur Radio satellites, launched Friday Jan 23rd by using a Web based Software Defined Radio (SDR).

Some of the Radio Amateurs who were involved in the very successful Delfi-C3 / DO-64 Amateur Radio satellite have made available a WebSDR receiver that listeners around the world can use to receive signals from the new Amateur Radio satellites.

The URL of the receiver is <http://websdr.pa3weg.nl/>



NCDXF/IARU Beacon Network

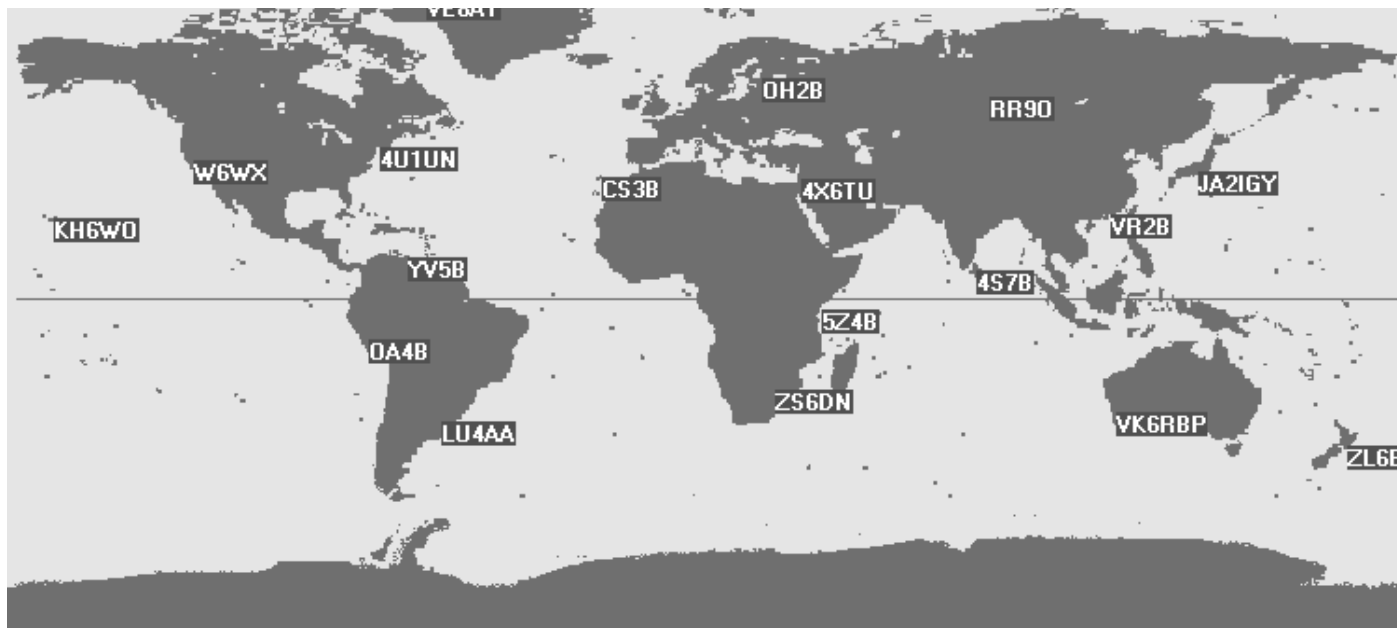


The Northern Californian DX Foundation (NCDXF), in cooperation with the IARU, constructed and operates a worldwide network of high-frequency radio beacons on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930, and 28.200 MHz.

These beacons help both amateur and commercial high-frequency radio users assess the current condition of the ionosphere.

The entire system is designed, built and operated by volunteers at no cost except for the actual price of hardware components, shipping costs, and so on.

Please ensure that you do not cause interference on any of the beacon frequencies.



Slot	DX Entity	Call	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Grid Square
1	United Nations	4U1UN	New York City	40° 45' N	73° 58' W	FN30as
2	Canada	VE8AT	Eureka, Nunavut	79° 59' N	85° 57' W	EQ79ax
3	United States	W6WX	Mt. Umunhum	37° 09' N	121° 54' W	CM97bd
4	Hawaii	KH6WO	Laie	21° 38' N	157° 55' W	BL11ap
5	New Zealand	ZL6B	Masterton	41° 03' S	175° 36' E	RE78tw
6	Australia	VK6RBP	Rolystone	32° 06' S	116° 03' E	OF87av
7	Japan	JA2IGY	Mt. Asama	34° 27' N	136° 47' E	PM84jk
8	Russia	RR90	Novosibirsk	54° 59' N	82° 54' E	NO14kx
9	Hong Kong	VR2B	Hong Kong	22° 16' N	114° 09' E	OL72bg
10	Sri Lanka	4S7B	Colombo	6° 6' N	80° 13' E	NJ06cc
11	South Africa	ZS6DN	Pretoria	25° 54' S	28° 16' E	KG44dc
12	Kenya	5Z4B	Kariobangi	1° 15' S	36° 53' E	KI88ks
13	Israel	4X6TU	Tel Aviv	32° 03' N	34° 46' E	KM72jb
14	Finland	OH2B	Lohja	60° 19' N	24° 50' E	KP20
15	Madeira	CS3B	Santo da Serra	32° 43' N	16° 48' W	IM12or
16	Argentina	LU4AA	Buenos Aires	34° 37' S	58° 21' W	GF05tj
17	Peru	OA4B	Lima	12° 04' S	76° 57' W	FH17mw
18	Venezuela	YV5B	Caracas	10° 25' N	66° 51' W	FK60nj

NCDXF/IARU Beacon Transmission Schedule

Each beacon transmits every three minutes, day and night. This table gives the minute and second of the start of the first transmission within the hour for each beacon on each frequency. A transmission consists of the callsign of the beacon sent at 22 words per minute followed by four one-second dashes. The callsign and the first dash are sent at 100 watts. The remaining dashes are sent at 10 watts, 1 watt and 100 milli-watts.

Call	Location	14.100	18.110	21.150	24.930	28.200	Operator	Status
4U1UN	United Nations	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40	UNRC	OK
VE8AT	Canada	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50	RAC/NARC	OK ¹
W6WX	United States	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00	NCDXF	OK
KH6WO	Hawaii	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10	KH6BYU	OK
ZL6B	New Zealand	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20	NZART	OK
VK6RBP	Australia	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30	WIA	OK
JA2IGY	Japan	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40	JARL	OK
RR9O	Russia	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50	SRR	OK
VR2B	Hong Kong	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00	HARTS	OK 4
S7B	Sri Lanka	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10	RSSL	OFF ⁵
ZS6DN	South Africa	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20	ZS6DN	OK
5Z4B	Kenya	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30	ARSK	OK
4X6TU	Israel	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40	IARC	OK ³
OH2B	Finland	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50	SRAL	OK
CS3B	Madeira	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00	ARRM	OK
LU4AA	Argentina	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10	RCA	OK
OA4B	Peru	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20	RCP	OK
YV5B	Venezuela	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30	RCV	OK

1 - Operation may be intermittent due to local conditions.

3 - Building renovations are causing prolonged power outages.

4 - Off for unknown reasons. We are attempting to contact the operators.

5 - Off due to hardware problems. Repairs are underway.

www.ncdxf.org

UK Licence Numbers

The UK regulator Ofcom has supplied the figures for the total number of Amateur Radio Licences issued in the United Kingdom as at 31st December 2008

Grade	31st Dec 08
Foundation	11,162
Intermediate	4,757
Full/Advanced	50,742
Club Stations	1,318
Reciprocal Full	483
Total	68,462

Changes from 31st December 2007

Foundation	+ 1522
Intermediate	+ 662
Full/Advanced	+ 331
Club Stations	+ 29
Reciprocal Full	N/A
Total	+ 2,544

The MRG VHF/UHF SSB Challenge 2008

Fixed section:

Place	Station	Locator	144MHz	432MHz	Score
1	EI5FK	IO51rt	34	0	10,118
2	EI8IQ	IO62sf	23	3	6,239
3	EI3JD	IO63gc	5	0	558
4	EI3GYB	IO53ot	7	2	325
5	EI7IG	IO62kd	2	1	196

Portable section:

1	EI7MRE/P	IO53lu	7	2	1018
2	EI2MRG/P	IO53lu	9	2	988

Best distance worked.

144MHz - EI5FK (IO51rt) - ON4WY (JO11lc) for a distance of 800Km.

432MHz - EI8IQ (IO62sf) - 2E1IDC (IO91tn) for a distance of 424Km.

Trophies will be presented to the winners of each category.

The MRG Group wishes to thank all those who took part in the 2008 event.

The **MRG VHF/UHF Challenge 2009** will take place on Sept 6th.



Contest Corner

by IRTS Contest Manager Thos Caffrey EI2JD

80m Counties Contest.

I hope you all enjoyed the IRTS 80m counties contest on Jan 1st 2009.

By all accounts it was a great success with 72 logs received before going to press. For the very first time we had all 32 counties active but no log yet has worked all counties.

A few logs have worked 28, 29, 30 and even a few 31 counties with a record number of QSO's, so some claimed scores are into the 14,000 points.

There are 126 individual EI/GI calls in the logs with 58 sending in logs.

Activations by county shows Dublin leading the way with 18 followed by Cork with 14 and then Waterford, Armagh, Derry, Antrim, Down, Kilkenny, Wicklow.

There are 51 entries in SSB Fixed and 4 in SSB/p. In the SSB/CW section there are 11 logs. There will be a report in the next issue along with the results.

I have had numerous enquiries already about the possibility of holding another 80m Counties contest later in the year and at the last committee meeting approval was given for a summer 80m contest.. One particular reason would be the improved weather and indeed daylight hours for the Portable entries. Clubs and individuals could use this opportunity to test out their 80m antennae for other larger contests throughout the year.

Looking through the Annual contest calendar it was difficult to find an appropriate date that was not on top of or next to an already existing contest.

Summer 80m Counties Contest

So I would like to announce that on Sunday 21st June 2009 the IRTS will hold its next 80m Counties Contest.

With all this new found interest in these short IRTS contests, it would be nice to see an improved entry in the 2m Counties contests. Even if you only have a vertical and only a few watts output, turn on and activate your county. The next 2m contest is not until Monday 13th April which is during the Easter holidays, giving you plenty of time to get that new antenna up.

Contests Dates and Info.

The next contests that may be of interest are both on the 14th and 15th of February.

CQWW RTTY WPX

For the digital minded operators the CQWW WPX RTTY is a good one to try. This is a 48 hour test but single ops may only operate 30 hours. Also there is no 160m or WARC bands allowed in this test.

See www.cqwpwxrtty.com/rules.htm for more info.

EI Records

Section	Call	Points	QSOs	Pfx	Yr
SOHP	EI4DW	821,700	691	396	2006
SOLP	EI4DW	149,592	653	311	2000
SOHP 20m	EI7M (3JE)	1,044,120	938	462	2006

Dutch PACC Contest

The other contest on the same weekend is the Dutch PACC Contest. This is a CW and/or SSB test starting 1200 UTC 14th to 1200 UTC 15th Feb.

You can only work Dutch stations.

Exchange:

Non-Dutch stations: signal report + QSO no., starting with 001.

Dutch stations: signal report + province code (two letters).

There are 12 provinces: GR, FR, DR, OV, GD, UT, NH, ZH, NB, LB, ZL, FL.

See <http://pacc.veron.nl/pacc2009-rules-eng.pdf> for all rules.

EI Records

Class	Call	Points	QSOs	Mults	Year
SOHP	EI2JD	5,040	140	36	2006
SOLP	EI9FVB	2,210	82	26	2007

ARRL DX CW Contest

The following weekend of 21st and 22nd Feb is the ARRL International DX CW Contest.

This is a 48 hour CW contest to work as many W/VE stations as possible. See www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html

EI Records

Year	Call	Points	QSOs	Mults	Class	Pwr
2001	EI7M	3,203,742	3,401	314	MS All	High
2001	EI8IC	883,668	1,396	211	SO All	Low
2005	EI4BZ	2,139,636	2,923	244	SO All	High
1997	EI6BT	61,335	435	47	SO 160m	High
2002	EI/SP3CW	38,682	307	42	SO 40m	Low
2006	EI4CF	91,485	535	57	SO 20m	Low
2003	EI4BZ	209,922	1,186	59	SO 20m	High
2001	EI8GP	139,776	832	56	SO 15m	Low
2001	EI5DI	154,392	919	56	SO 10m	Low
2002	EI4BZ	254,619	1,489	57	SO 10m	High

The SSB section of this contest is on the 7th and 8th March.

CQWW 160m SSB

Please note:

This year's rules reflect several significant changes, so please read them closely. Here is a summary of the major changes:

1. The dates for the 2009 SSB contest are a week later than usual to avoid conflict with the ARRL DX Contest. This is a calendar anomaly and will return to the last full weekend in February in 2010.
2. The start and end times of the contests have been shifted two hours earlier in response to requests from the 160 contesting community.
3. The exchange for DX stations has been changed from RS(T) & country to RS(T) and CQ zone.

This contest starts at 2200Z February 27th to 2200Z March 1st. See http://cq-amateur-radio.com/160_Rules_2009.pdf

EI scores last year:

EI7JW	699,108	1145	40	62	(Op: OK1TN)
EI6IZ	562,974	906	41	60	
EI2CN	490,917	842	39	58	

I hope the weather especially the wind has not been too severe on your station over the past few weeks. Hear you in the contests.

73 de Thos EI2JD

Get ready for World Amateur Radio Day

Each year on the anniversary of its founding, April 18, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) marks **World Amateur Radio Day**. On this 83rd anniversary of its inaugural meeting in Paris, the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the future of Amateur Radio with its theme, *"Amateur Radio: A Foundation for Technical Knowledge."*

It is no secret that many professionals in the field of radio, TV, communications and electronics have started their technical education as young radio amateurs.

Although Amateur Radio has a different face nowadays -- Digital Communications, Voice over Internet Protocol, Satellite up- and downlinks and more -- it is even of greater value as a foundation for technical knowledge for youngsters. And much more -- it is and should be used as a unique attraction for future young radio amateurs.

World Amateur Radio Day provides an occasion to promote and publicize Amateur Radio.

Amateur Radio clubs are encouraged to find suitable ways of celebrating World Amateur Radio Day.

Many ways can be considered -- inviting youngsters to visit radio clubs, showing up on the air with a special call sign, organizing a station in a public area with media coverage or publicly honouring amateurs who have made significant contributions. Whatever method is chosen, clubs should think about publishing a press release for the media, giving the background to World Amateur Radio Day and promoting the value of Amateur Radio as a foundation for a technical career.

World Amateur Radio Day April 18

ITU Definition of Amateur Radio

Amateur Service:

A radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorised persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

Amateur - Satellite Service:

A radiocommunication service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purposes as those of the amateur service.

Logbook Of The World now easier than ever

In order to better accommodate new users as well as existing account holders, ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) has been updated <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>.

According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, these improvements were made based LoTW help questions and listening to users.

"Through the efforts of Membership and Volunteer Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, and Information Technology Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, we have also added an automated results table on the LoTW Users Home Page that lists members in numeric order who have achieved the Triple Play Award," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B.

"IT personnel have also fixed a number of longstanding issues with Logbook in recent weeks, and some additional enhancements are underway."

Added enhancements include:

- An LoTW User's Corner that includes quick links to log onto your account, save or renew a certificate and ways to address PC failure.
- The GET STARTED section <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/start.html>> has been simplified with links for each of the four steps in the certificate process.
- LoTW instructions are now available in nine languages: English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Russian, Slovenian and Spanish. Options to select a language have always been available, but they have now been moved up front to the GET STARTED page. The languages are identified with icons of flags to represent each language.
- The GET STARTED pdf file has been updated to include new screenshots and refinement of some of the processes.
- The software download section now consists of only three icons representing the three operating systems for which software is available: Windows, Mac and Linux. The user simply selects their operating system and they are redirected to the download specific to their system.
- A new link has been added for QSL Manager, Club Calls and DXpeditions. This link gives details on establishing an account for these special operations and includes a section for 1x1 call signs.
- A new PowerPoint overview is available from the LoTW site. This presentation has also been added to our multimedia library <<http://www.arrl.org/multimedia>>. The program is an overview of LoTW and what users can expect from the service. There are screenshots of LoTW pages, as well as a condensed version of the certificate and award application process.
- With more than 200 million QSOs submitted, ARRL's Logbook of The World system is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/22/10576/?nc=1>>. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. Yaesu is the principal sponsor of the LoTW Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/02/10138/>>.

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager:

Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,

Rathlin, Kilcrohane, Co. Cork.

ei8jk@amsat.org

Emergency Radio Communications

A brief introduction to HF antennas for emergency communications



What is NVIS?

Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) propagation makes use of the fact that near-vertical signals do not all penetrate the Ionospheric layers and disappear into space. Instead, a usable amount of signal is ordinarily reflected or refracted downward.

NVIS involves the use of antennas with a very high radiation angle, approaching or reaching 90 degrees (straight up), along with selection of an appropriate frequency below the critical frequency, to establish reliable communications over a radius of 0-300 miles

Obviously in order for NVIS to be most effective all the stations involved should be using NVIS mode antennas.

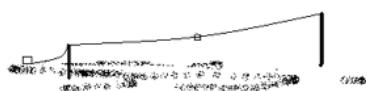
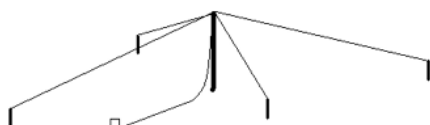
For simplicity, we recommend a pair of nested dipoles for 40 and 80 meter bands (60m could replace 40m) fed with a single coaxial feeder.

The optimum height is approximately 12 feet above ground for 40 and 24 feet for 80 meters. A good compromise is 18 feet at the centre support with the ends strung out, so that when viewed from above, the wires form a cross. The ends can be as low as 1 metre from the ground. The layout of the wires means that the antenna itself guys the mast.

Obviously a non conducting mast is better than a metal one.

There is no real benefit in raising the antenna above the heights mentioned above. That would make the antenna more susceptible to receiving skip and increase the noise level.

Loop antennas set up for NVIS operation offer gain over the basic dipole. These



will require more supporting points and to be fed with balanced line. Balanced (ladder) line offers somewhat lower loss but care must be taken with its routing, especially in proximity to metal objects. Coaxial cable is more tolerant of routing near metal objects or other cables.

For HF mobile operation, a multi-band mobile whip that covers 40 and 80 metres, or indeed mono-band whips, can be used. Tilting the antenna toward the horizontal will direct more energy upwards for the NVIS mode of operation.

3/8 inch knuckle adapters are readily available that allow a standard mobile antenna to be tilted as required.

As the bandwidth of mobile antennas on these bands is quite narrow, these whips can be tuned for the local Emergency Frequencies, or be used with a tuner to achieve a good match to the transmitter. As these antennas are electrically short, they are far less efficient than a wire antenna of the correct wavelength.

Mobile NVIS would be most useful for keeping in contact with Net control while travelling to a designated site, but, once there, it would be preferable to set up a portable antenna as described above, for more reliable communication.

For fixed operation away from home, an easy to set up efficient system is required. The monopole horizontal quarter wave wire using the vehicle as a counterpoise is ideal for NVIS work. A dipole will be slightly better but needs more space and supports.

This could be made cover the 40 and 80m bands by opening and closing a link across an insulator near its midpoint.

For international communication, a fibre-glass telescopic fishing pole of about 7 metres with a similar amount of wire taped to it is most effective.

This oriented vertically and fed via a tuner can use the vehicle and/or the horizontal NVIS wire as counterpoises to cover most bands.

It can be erected in minutes and collapses to take up minimum space for transport. Avoid wire lengths of half-wavelengths.

Ground wave propagation, often overlooked, can be used to great effect when NVIS operation is too difficult. While the lower frequencies bands will carry sig-

nals of greater distances, operating above the MUF will generally find frequencies free of QRM and QRN. We suggest the use of vertical antennas for this mode.

Vulnerable parts of antenna systems in mobile or portable use are, the coax plug connection, the cable where it enters doorways, and any areas where water can get in.

Crimped coaxial plugs are preferred to twist on. Self amalgamating tape is good for waterproofing joints.

For communications with other countries, the 80 and 40m band antennas work well at higher elevations. A dipole for the 20m band will often be more effective for distances of a few thousand kms. Mobile HF antennas should be returned to the vertical. Beams and similar high gain antennas used for DX communications will perform well

Having a more efficient antenna will also allow less power to be used. This is especially important if the station needs to operate on battery power.

Emergency communicators should maintain their antennas in top condition. Regularly check the antenna system SWR at the transmitter, and the antennas on the air.

Regular visual inspections should be performed, particularly after storm conditions when damage is most likely, as any radio station can only be as good as its antenna.

Training

AREN training nets continues monthly on the 7th (voice) and 21st (digital) each month.

Nets start at 1930 with a different controller each night.

Full information on www.aren.ie.

The digital nets are on 3.585 MHz and the mode is PSK31.

Software mostly being used is Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS).

It is available on:

www.w1hkj.com/nbems

Work continues on the mobile command post. Anyone interested in lending a helping hand should contact Conor EI4JN on 087-7993085.

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

The 2008 Mayo Radio Experimenters Members' competition was won by Jimmy Kelly, EI2GCB. He accumulated 986 points, two more than runner-up, Padraic Baynes, EI9JA. In third place was John McAndrew, EI3JM with 975 with John Browne, EI7FAB, fourth on 971.

Well down the field, in fifth was John Corless, EI7IQ, on 685, with Mike Hayes EI2EO, next on 580. Dominic Curtin, EI9JS, was seventh (486.5) followed by Brendan Minish, EI6IZ, (388,) John Walsh, EI5GHB (287) and RuthAnn O'Connor, EI8JY (192).

The competitions are run monthly to promote activity and cover working Mayo squares, EI Counties, DXCC, QRP, CW only, Lighthouses, IOTA and listening. In all twelve competitions are run, but contestants can only submit the scores of ten months, to facilitate members who might be away for a particular month.

Speaking to Echo Ireland, MREN Chairperson John McAndrew, EI3JM, said that the competition had increased activity amongst members since introduced four years ago. "There's something in the programme for everyone," he said, "and we are review it annually to see if a particular month's activity isn't working so well."

The MREN recently moved its monthly meetings to The Welcome Inn Hotel in Castlebar, scene of the club's highly-successful 2008 rally.

The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 21.30 local time and all are welcome.

The club also relaunched its website recently, www.ei7mre.org is managed by John Walsh, EI5GHB



Jimmy EI2GCB and John EI5GHB

Emergency broadcast on all television and radio channels

On the morning of December 16th 2008 at 4.45 a.m. the Department of Communications carried out a structured exercise in relation to the broadcast of emergency services. The exercise was part of the Government's commitment to emergency planning. Early that morning, all television and radio channels carried a 30-second engineering test simultaneously across Ireland.

The four terrestrial broadcasters, regional broadcasters, all national radio channels and the 25 local radio stations carried an announcement indicating that an engineering test was being conducted and that normal programming would resume at the end of the test.

The exercise was designed to simulate an urgent requirement of the Government and/or the emergency services to have access to radio and TV broadcast platforms in a short time scale in order to broadcast to the public.

The Government Task Force on Emergency Planning considers that in the event of an emergency, broadcast media will be the most efficient vehicle for the transmission of emergency messages to the public.

This is the first time such an exercise has ever been carried out in Ireland. It was also the first time that Government Buildings has been used to distribute a message to virtually every broadcast entity in the State.

The timing of the exercise was deliberately chosen to test the response times of the broadcasters. Most stations are unmanned in the early hours of the morning and it was considered an excellent simulation of an emergency situation where stations would have to react quickly in unusual circumstances.

Communications Minister Eamon Ryan said, "I am pleased that the exercise went without a hitch. Contact was made with the broadcasters in question early in the morning and they had very little time to co-ordinate this national broadcast response. The exercise was designed to test the ability of the broadcast networks to work together and to have available a critical infrastructure that will allow emergency messages to be broadcast to the public should the need arise.

This they did quickly and effectively.

This is a very positive outcome for Government emergency planning. I would like to commend the broadcasters, the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland and Oireachtas TV for their cooperation in this exercise".

The Minister confirmed that a full evaluation of the exercise would be carried out.

Engineered A Week of Wonder

IRTS to run Workshops for students.

Engineers Ireland will host a "week of wonder" for Primary and Post Primary students during the month of February 2009.

IRTS in collaboration with Engineers Ireland will run a number of workshops at Engineers Ireland's Dublin headquarters.

These will consist of a two-hour, hands on, programme which will act as an introduction to communications and radio technology

The Society also intends to package the programme so that clubs around the country will be able to run similar workshops.

As we go to press, clubs in Mayo, Cork and Limerick have committed to participate in the programme.

Engineers Ireland will provide clubs with local partners such as technical schools or libraries who are anxious to participate and participants will include both primary and second level students. Enquiries to Paul Martin EI2CA on 087 2523908 or email to paul@comma.ie

Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

February 2009

7- 8	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	Vermont QSO Party	All
7- 8	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	10-10 Internat. Winter QSO Party	Phone
7	Sat 1600 - 1900	AGCW Straight Key Party	CW
7- 8	Sat 1800 - Sun 1759	Mexico International RTTY Contest	RTTY
7-8	Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
14-15	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY
14-15	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Dutch PACC Contest	CW/SSB
14	Sat 1700 - 2100	FISTS Winter Sprint	CW
15	Sun 0000 - 0400	North American Sprint Contest	SSB
20-21	Fri 2100 - Sat 2100 **	Russian PSK WW Contest	PSK31
21-22	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL International DX Contest	CW
21-22	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW 160-Meter Contest	SSB
21-22	Sat 0600 - Sun 1800	REF Contest	SSB
21-22	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	UBA DX Contest	CW
21-22	Sat 1800 - Sun 0600	North American QSO Party	RTTY
22	Sun 0900 - 1100	High Speed Club CW Contest (1)	CW
22	Sun 1500 - 1700	High Speed Club CW Contest (2)	CW

March 2009

7- 8	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL International DX Contest	SSB
7- 8	Sat 1000 - Sun 1000	RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW
21	Sat 0001 - 2359	10-10 International Mobile QSO Party	All?
21-23	Sat 0200 - Mon 0200	BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	RTTY
21-22	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	DARC HF-SSTV Contest	SSTV
21-22	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Russian DX Contest	CW/SSB
28-29	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW WPX Contest	SSB

April 2009

4- 5	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	SP DX Contest	CW/SSB
4- 5	Sat 1600 - Sun 1600	EA RTTY Contest	RTTY
11-12	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	Japan International DX Contest	CW
11	Sat 1600 - 1959	EU Sprint Spring	CW
11-12	Sat 2100 - Sun 2100	Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	CW
13	Sun 1300 - Sun 1500	IRTS 2m Counties Contest	SSB/CW/FM
18	Sat 1600 - 1959	EU Sprint Spring	SSB
25-25	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	SP DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
25-25	Sat 1300 - Sun 1259	Helvetia Contest	CW/SSB/Digi

May 2009

30-31	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW WPX Contest	CW
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June 2009

6-7	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	IRTS HF CW Field Day	CW
21	Sun 1400 - Sun 1700	IRTS 80m Counties Contest	CW/SSB

July 2009

4-5	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day	SSB/CW/FM
11-12	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	IARU HF Championships	CW/SSB
25-26	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Islands on the Air Contest	CW/SSB

August 2009

30	Sun 1300 - Sun 1500	IRTS 2m Counties Contest	SSB/CW/FM
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September 2009

5-6	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	IRTS HF SSB Field Day	CW
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For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

3DA0 DXpedition Operators Needed

The scouts in Swaziland will be running an International camp at their national camp site near Manzini from July 31st until 11th August 2009. They have requested that an amateur radio station be run at this camp. It appears that it may be possible to provide the station as requested but a team of operators would be needed to run the station.

The team would probably request the callsign 3DA0SS which was used for their JOTA station last October. The station would comprise a FT1000MP with IC2KL linear into a HF log periodic antenna on a mobile tower provided by African DX Safaris.

Anyone interested in joining the team should make contact by email as soon as possible.

David G14FUM/EI4DJ/3DA0DJ
Email: CDXC@yahoo.com

Limerick Radio Club AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Limerick Radio Club will be held on Thursday 26th February 2009 at the Limerick Institute of Technology at 7:30 pm. All members of the Club are requested to attend.

The regular monthly meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month (12th February) has been cancelled to facilitate the AGM later in the month.

The Annual Radio Hobbies and Electronics Fair will be held on Sunday 8th March 2009 at the Limerick Radisson SAS Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

Radio News Deadline Change

Noon on Thursdays

News Editor
Charlie Carolan EI8JB

Input for the radio news should be sent via e-mail to charlie.carolan@gmail.com or newsteam@irts.ie or by phone to 087-6265418

(as at January 26th 2009)

DXCC Confirmed			Worked All States		
188	EI7BA (+7)	Approved	50	EI4CF	Approved
166	EI3IO (+1)		50	EI9FBB	Approved
157	EI4CF (+1)	Approved	50	EJ9FBB	Approved
144	EI2JD (+3)	Approved	50	EI9HX (New)	
140	EI7CC		49	EI9HQ	
140	EI9FBB (+4)	Approved	49	EJ9HQ	
140	EI9FBB (+14)	Approved	46	EI3IO (+1)	
138	EI6IZ	Approved	46	EI6HB (+1)	
138	EI9HX (New)		44	EI4IS	
129	EI0CZ		44	EI8GP	
105	EI3GYB		43	EI5GM	
102	EI6JK (+1)		43	EI7BA (+1)	
99	EI6AL (+5)	Approved	42	EI7JN (+1)	
98	EI9FVB (+9)	AG	39	EI2JD	
97	EI6HB	AG	38	EI5IF (+1)	
96	EI9HQ	Approved	35	EI7CC	
94	EI8IU (+1)	Bronze AG	35	EI9HW	
92	EJ9HQ	Approved	32	EI0W (+2)	
92	EI5IF	AG	30	EI6JK (+1)	
88	EI8FH (+5)	Approved	29	EI4GXB (+3)	
86	EI9ES (+1)	Approved	29	EI9ES (New)	
81	EI1DG	AG	26	EI6AL (New)	
79	EI4GXB (+7)		26	EI9FVB (+1)	
78	EI5GM		25	EI9JM	
73	EI0W (+10)		20	EI9O (+8)	
70	EI7IX	Approved			
69	EI2II	Approved			
69	EI8GP				Worked All Zones
68	EI/DH0GSU/p		39	EI4CF	
68	EI4GNB (+2)	Approved	39	EI7BA	
68	EI8JR (+2)	AG	39	EI9HX (New)	
67	EI4HH (+6)	Approved	38	EI9FBB	
67	EI4HQ (+4)	AG	39	EJ9FBB	
66	EI3HA (+10)		38	EI3IO	
65	EI7M		34	EI2JD	
65	EI8DD	Approved	33	EI7CC	
65	EI8DL	Approved	31	EI5IF	
61	EI4IS		31	EI6AL (+1)	
60	EI7JN	Silver	31	EI6JK	
58	EI9JF		30	EI3GYB	
58	EI9JM	AG	25	EI0W (+3)	
58	EI9O (+4)	AG	22	EI7JN	
56	EI7BMB (+4)	AG	18	EI9O (+1)	
54	EI7IQ	AG	6	EI7IW	
53	EI6IL	Approved			
52	EI6CPB (+2)	Approved			Worked Prefixes
51	EI5GJB (+7)	Approved			
50	EI6AK	AG	870	EI4CF	
50	EI8JK	AG	798	EI2JD (+41)	Approved
49	EI2FSB	Approved	709	EI3IO (+24)	
48	EI6ARB	Approved	649	EI9FBB (+52)	Approved
48	EI7BFB	Approved	645	EI9HQ (+26)	Approved
48	EI8IQ		608	EI7CC	
43	EI7IM		490	EI0W (+136)	
42	EI5IX	Silver	486	EI7BA (+19)	
41	EI3EBB		482	EI6JK	
39	EI6IF	AG	430	EI9FVB (+34)	
39	EI9CF	Silver AG	348	EI5IF	
38	EI5GSB (+12)	Approved	333	EI5GM	
34	EI1KARG		319	EI4GXB (New)	
34	EI3JB	AG	299	EI8GP	
31	EI90GPO	AG	291	EI9JM	
29	EI2GLB	Approved	213	EI7JN	
27	EI3GDB	Approved	167	EI8IU	
27	EI7GM (+1)	Approved	166	EI8DL	
25	EI2FS		149	EI9O (+34)	
23	EI7IW	Approved			
20	EI0CPL				<i>EQSL list maintained by EI2JD</i>
20	EI2IV				

ARRL Card Checker in EI

Dave Deane EI9FBB QTHR

(as at January 26th 2009)

Mixed		160m
349	EI8H (+10)	184 EI3IO
348	EI6S (+24)	106 EI7BA
347	EI7CC (+1)	
341	EI6FR	80m
340	EI2GS	147 EI9FBB (+1)
321	EI3IO	131 EI7BA (+3)
306	EI2HY	104 EI4BZ
270	EI2CR	100 EI2JD
265	EI9FBB (+1)	40m
264	EI7BA	187 EI9FBB
262	EI2GX	142 EI7BA (+4)
238	EI2JD	129 EI2JD
232	EI4BZ	117 EI7GL (+5)
230	EI9JF	113 EI16IZ (New)
211	EI6IZ (+21)	112 EI4BZ
205	EI5GM	30m
189	EI8IU	124 EI7BA
152	EI6HB	112 EI6IZ (+12)
131	EI9HQ (+4)	106 EI4BZ
128	EI8HA	103 EI9FBB
103	EI6AL	20m
104	EI9FVB	226 EI9FBB (+1)
100 EI4GXB (New)		174 EI7BA
Phone		169 EI2JD
345 EI7CC (+1)		150 EI4BZ
343 EI6S (+23)		121 EI16IZ (New)
338 EI2GS		121 EI9JF
334 EI8EM		111 EI8GS
331 EI8AR		110 EI3GV
317 EI6FR		102 EI9HQ (+2)
300 EI8AU		17m
277 EI3GV		146 EI7BA
260 EI9FBB (+1)		143 EI9FBB
253 EI4GK		15m
229 EI8GS		164 EI4BZ
221 EI2JD		151 EI9FBB (+1)
213 EI7GL (+47)		139 EI7BA
197 EI7BA		126 EI2JD
186 EI7II		109 EI8GS
177 EI9FE		108 EI3GV
177 EI9JF		12m
165 EI2CH		102 EI7BA
147 EI4BZ		10m
135 EI8IU		144 EI7GL (+31)
125 EI9HQ (+3)		134 EI4BZ
119 EI4HH		128 EI4GK
114 EI4EX		128 EI2JD
108 EI6HB		110 EI7BA
105 EI9HX		106 EI9FBB
105 EI1CS		104 EI8GS
103 EI9FVB		6m
101 EI3IP		155 EI3IO
CW		111 EI7GL (+7)
314 EI7CC (+2)		101 EI3EBB
255 EI6FR		2m No entry
239 EI7BA		QRP DXCC No Entry
220 EI4BZ		DXCC Challenge
197 EI6IZ (+21)		1521 EI7CC (+82)
167 EI2JD		1389 EI3IO
159 EI9FBB		1185 EI7BA (+35)
134 EI8IU		1172 EI16FR (New)
128 EI9JF		1134 EI9FBB (+3)
109 EI2IH		DXCC Honor Roll
109 EI4HM		Mixed
107 EI/GM4ARJ		338 EI6FR/341
106 EI1DG		335 EI2GS/340
100 EI6AL		335 EI7CC/347
RTTY/Digital		334 EI6S/348
102 EI6FR		Phone
102 EI6HB		333 EI2GS/338
Satellite		334 EI7CC/345
No Entry		330 EI6S/343
		329 EI8EM/334

Members Advertisements

For Sale: Power Supply, as new.
3 Element Mosley Yagi TA33, ready for
transport.
Brendan 01-2824626

For Sale: Kenwood TM 441E
(Brand new, still in its box)
Jamie on 085-7189371

For Sale: Winradio G305E with ATO
trunking and P25 Digital.
Grecom PSR600 digital scanner, 37k
channels
Phone 061-397004

For Sale: Begali Signature Edition Pad-
dle [http://www.i2rtf.com/html/
keys_paddles.html](http://www.i2rtf.com/html/keys_paddles.html) €200.00
Timewave DSP 59+ €100.00
Top Ten Devices DX Doubler + two
Yaesu Cable sets €150.00
Palm Radio Iambic paddle + "Cube"
keyer + infra red link €120.00
SGC ADSP2 Mk II Speaker € 75.00
Autek Research VA1 Antenna analyser
..... €100.00
John EI7BA 086-2559441

For Sale:
Kenwood TS-850S SAT €650.00
Dave EI9FBB 083-3317940

Free Contest Mapping Tool Updated

Some exciting news about EI8IC's
unique Contest Log Mapping Tool - its
now completely FREE to use, and its just
been updated with the results of 35 new
contests.

Working from an online database of
about 970,000 W/VE callsigns past and
present, LogView plots the QSOs in a
Cabrillo-format contest-log on to one of 8
different maps of North America.

Essentially a post-contest log-
visualisation tool for analysing contest
performance, LogView is also useful in
defining gaps in your antenna coverage,
by comparing the positions of entrants to
the contest against those entrants actually
contacted.

To start using LogView on your own
contest logs, visit:
<http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/logview>

Phoenix Amateur Radio Club

Radio Rally

Sunday February 15th
at

Coolmine Community School
Dublin 15

Doors open for traders at 0830
Public admission at 0930
Admission €5.00

For table bookings or enquiries

Ring

Tony: 087-2439997

Tom: 01-8211043

Lagan Valley ARS Radio Rally

Village Centre, Ballynahinch Road,

Hillsborough.

March 14th 2008

Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Please note change of venue.

Further details from GI0DVU or MI0BPB, both QTHR.

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Church Island Radio Group Radio Rally

at the
**Parochial Community Hall
Bellaghy,**

Co. Derry. BT45 8JS

Friday April 3rd

8.00 - 10.00 pm

See www.ciarg.co.uk

Enquiries to
Joe on 07880973314

Radio Electronics & Hobbies Exhibition

Sunday 8th March 2009

Radisson SAS Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

Doors open at 11am.

Admission €5.00

All are Welcome



JBT Trading



Wescom



Long Communications



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Experimenter - Ham

Wescom Ireland Ltd



I am exiting this business as of July
Last two shows - Limerick & Athlone

Clearing Everything

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IC 7800 HF used upgraded
IC 7700 HF TCVR new & demo
IC R 9500 professional receiver in stock

IC 756 Pro 3 HF TCVR last 2
IC-7400 HF TCVR one demo
IC 7200 HF TCVR new
IC-718 HF TCVR real bargain
IC 706 MK2G call for xmas special
IC 7000 demo unit call

All ICOM ATUs, PSUs in stock

All Icom-VHF /UHF Models in Stock
clearing the lot out – call for price

2 meter Linamp GS35 Linear - sold
4/6 meter as above sold

HF Amplifiers - none left

TENNADYNE LOG PERIODIC ANTENNAS

T6, T8, T10, T12 € in stock

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RAK rotator-best prices in Europe

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tors & more

I am handing over this business in July to Rory in ProComm

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New Icom Radios

Price List 2009

IC-2200H	€249.00
IC-E2820.....	€494.00
IC-208.....	€315.00
IC-2725.....	€399.00
IC-703.....	€655.00
IC-706 MKIIG	€920.00
IC-7000.....	€1,170.00
IC-7400.....	€1,274.00
IC-756 PRO III	€2,585.00



New Yaesu Radios

Price List 2009

FT-7800	€225.00
FT-8800	€337.00
FT-8900	€375.00
FT-817ND.....	€499.00
FT-857D	€649.00
FT-897D	€749.00
FT-450	€775.00
FT-950	€1,125.00
FT-2000	€2,375.00
FT-2000D	€2,999.00

New Power Supplies.

Power-Mite - NF.

22 Amp continuous, Switch Mode Power Supply
Variable Voltage Mini Size, noise offset.....€78.95

Power-Max-25 - NF.

22 Amp continuous Switch Mode, Variable Voltage
Power Supply, Volt and Amp meters, Noise offset€117.50

Power-Max-45 - NF.

38 Amp continuous Switch Mode, Variable Voltage
Power Supply, Volt and Amp meters, Noise offset€156.00

W-25AM Watson

25A Variable Voltage Power Supply plus
Volt/Amp meters, 0 - 15V DC, Cigar Socket,
Front Panel Fuse. Size 240 x 15 x 230mm€117.00

W-30AM Watson 30A

Variable Voltage Power Supply plus
Volt/Amp meters, 35A Peak, Over current
protected, 3 sets of terminals, Cigar Socket,
Front panel fuse€156.00

GZV 2500 Diamond 25A

3-15V Variable Switch Mode Power Supply,
25A continuous. Built-in cooling fan.
Size 210 x 110 x 220mm, Weight 2.5kg€188.00

Used-Radio Price List

IC 756 PRO.....	€900.00
IC 737. Mint.....	€780.00
TS 2000. One year old.....	€1,150.00
IC 756 PROII	€1,300.00
IC 702 Mk2G.....	€600.00
FT1000MP. Mint Condition.....	€960.00
FT847D mint.....	€865.00
TS 570 SAT.....	€599.00
FT 707 SAT.....	€300.00
IC 7000 Boxed, as new	€800.00
SP 767 Speaker	€99.00
FP 902 ATU.....	€165.00
TS 440 SAT.....	€445.00
TS 480 SAT	€695.00
SP 2000 Speaker	€120.00

Trade-ins are always welcome.

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Paypal and all major credit cards accepted

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Good clean used radio gear

Cash waiting for your unwanted items

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087-2513772**

Used Equipment

February Sale: All prices for straight sales

Alinco EDX2/ Long wire auto tuner	€249.00
Alinco DR-610, 2m/70cm Mobile. 50/35w	€249.00
Alinco DR-635, 2/70cm Mobile. Crossband Repeater option Special	€299.00 New
AOR 3000A 0-2036 MHz, 400 memories. All Mode	€599.00
AOR 5000. 0-2600MHz. 1000 mems. All Mode	€1,199.00
AOR 7030 Award winning Rx. 0-30MHz Boxed/mint	€599.00
Daiwa Power/SWR Meter. 1.8-200MHz Up to 2kW....	€125.00
Garmin Quest Handheld GPS. Ireland & Europe	€125.00
Garmin Street Pilot 2610 GPS. Ireland & Europe	€199.00
Icom AT-180 Auto ATU for IC706 & IC-7000	€299.00
Icom IC-91E, 2m/70cm Handheld. D-Star ready.....	€249.00
Icom IC-91E, 2m/70cm Handheld. D-Star fitted.....	€349.00
Icom IC-746, 100w HF/6m/2m Auto ATU	€999.00
Icom IC756PROII. One owner. Auto ATU, DSP.....	€1,299.00
Icom IC-775 DSP, 200w HF, fully filtered, boxed/mint	€1,699.00
Icom IC-821H 2m/70cm 45/35w base multi-mode,	€799.00
Icom IC-7000 25-2000MHz. Desktop Receiver	€499.00
Icom SP20. Matching speaker for Icom 775 etc	€125.00
JRC NRD 545 Top class Rx, boxed, mint, one owner	€1,199.00
Kenwood PHD7E, 2/70cm, H/H	€299.00
Kenwood AT-50. Matching Auto Tuner for TS-50	€249.00
Kenwood MC60 Desk Mic. Mint condition.	€125.00
Kenwood TM455E 45w, 70cm multi-mode,	€249.00
Kenwood TS-570DGE, HF rig with DSP AUTO ATU	€899.00
Kenwood TS-790 2m/70cm/23cm. All mode base stn .	€899.00
Kenwood TS-850SAT, Auto ATU. Mint, Boxed.....	€799.00
Kenwood TS-2000, HF /70cms, Auto ATU, Boxed, ..	€1,199.00
Kenwood TS-2000X. HF/2/23cm, Auto ATU, DSP...€1,399.00	
MFJ 949E 300w Antenna with dummy load	€149.00
Realistic PRO 2006. 25-1300 MHz. 400 memories.....	€175.00
Realistic PRO 2042 1000ch scanner. Base/mobile	€199.00
SR-2000A Spectrum Scope with Rx 25-3000MHz	€1,199.00
Uniden Bearcat UBC780XLT 25-1300MHz.	
Trunk Tracker	€225.00
Uniden Bearcat UBC800XLT. Latest base/m scanner .	€249.00
Watson 22 Amp 0-15v PSU. Special offer - New!	€89.00
Yaesu MD-1 Desk Mic for FT990, FT736, FT1000 etc .	€89.00
Yaesu FT-60R, 2m/70cm Handheld + charger	€159.00
Yaesu FT-847 Earth Station. HF/6m/2m/70cm.	€1,099.00
Yaesu FT-920AF, HF + 6m, Auto ATU, DSP	€899.00



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**Yaesu FT-2000
Special Offer
€2,149.00**



Yaesu FT-1000MK5. 200w. All Mode.	€1,699.00
Yaesu FT-1000MK5 Field. 100w. Built in PSU/ATU ..	€1,449.00
Yaesu VR5000. 0-2600MHz. Base/mobile. Mint.....	€429.00
Yaesu FRG-7700 Desktop 0-30MHz all mode Rx	€199.00
Yaesu VX7R, Triband waterproof h/h 6/2/70cm	€219.00
Yaesu VX170, 6w 2m Handheld Boxed as new.....	€125.00
AOT 7030+. Award winning Receiver. Boxed, Mint	€799.00
Linear Amp UK. 700w 70cm Amp. Bargain.....	€899.00

****Special Offer** Tokyo HL 1.5KFX. 1kw HF/6m
Amplifier. R.R.P. €4,449.00 - 2 only at €2,799.00**

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